



March 11th, 2025

Chair Jim Carlson
3221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Carlson and members of the Senate Elections Committee,

We Choose Us (WCU) is a coalition of over 40 grassroots organizations, unions and advocacy groups committed to building a multiracial democracy in Minnesota. That means protecting the democratic institutions we have, strengthening the communities that make democracy possible and expanding our own ideas about what democracy can look like in order to best meet the needs of each and every person who makes Minnesota home. We are glad to be writing in support of SF1911, the Minnesota Civic Fund.

In Minnesota, we are proud to lead the nation in voter turnout because we know that regardless of our age, race, or religion, we all deserve a voice in choosing our leaders. But the current political campaign finance system favors wealthy corporations who can afford to pour thousands of dollars into elections, while the voice of the everyday Minnesotan is drowned out. A Lake Research Partners x We Choose Us 2022 post-election poll found unifying agreement across demographics that limiting the amount of money a corporation can donate to a political campaign and spend on elections is one of the most important steps to strengthen democracy.

It does not have to be this way – the Minnesota Civic Fund is a transformatively powerful policy to make sure Minnesotans are at the center of our democracy. Through the program, **every eligible Minnesotan would have the ability to support the candidate of their choice without spending a dime upfront**, or having to wait for a refund as in our current PCR system. With a requirement in place that individuals may only donate to the candidates that aim to represent them, the bill incentivizes candidates to seek out their own residents first, increasing accountability between constituents and their elected officials.

The MN Civic Fund would also allow for a more accessible and diverse pool of candidates, including first-time candidates who may see fundraising as a large barrier to running for office. As a result, Minnesota would see a more inclusive, multiracial democracy that implements policies fully reflecting the needs of the state. Establishing this program would once again place Minnesota as a leader of campaign finance modernization, as the Minnesota Civic Fund would be a first-in-the-nation policy to finance statewide elections.

In Minnesota, regardless of how much money is in our bank accounts, we deserve a voice in choosing our leaders. We urge your support for the Minnesota Civic Fund, SF1911.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lilly Sasse, We Choose Us Campaign Director
and We Choose Us Coalition Partners:

100% Campaign	ISAIAH
Asian American Organizing Project	Jewish Community Action
African Career Education and Resources	Land Stewardship Project
AFL-CIO	League of Women Voters
AFSCME Council 5	Main Street Alliance
Ayada Leads	Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
Barbershop and Black Congregation Cooperative	Minnesota Association of Peacemakers
CAIR Minnesota	Minnesota Nurses Association
	Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance
Citizens United	Minnesota Voice
Clean Elections Minnesota	Minnesota Move to Amend State Network
Clean Water Action	Muslim Coalition
Conservation Minnesota	Native American Community Development Institute
COPAL	New Justice Project
ERA Minnesota	

Fey Justicia

Fair Vote

Grassroots in Action

Healthy Democracy Healthy People

Indivisible

Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia

Inter Faculty Organization

Interfaith Power and Light

OutFront Minnesota

Planned Parenthood

Pro-Choice MN

SEIU

TakeAction Minnesota

Ujamaa Place

Unidos

We Win Institute