



March 5, 2025

Chair & Senator Jim Carlson
Senate Elections Committee
c/o Beth Fraser, Committee Administrator
Room 1200, Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Testimony in Support of SF 1996, Campaign Finance Modifications

Dear Chair Carlson and Members of the Senate Elections Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. Together, we envision a democracy where the voice of each person is heard equally; where voters are provided sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices; and where there is transparency to support the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections.

LWV Minnesota supports SF 1996, Campaign Finance Modifications

The League of Women Voters supports policies that provide public disclosure and transparency regarding the individuals and organizations that are using money to influence state and local elections. SF 1996 provides a much-needed update to existing campaign finance disclosure and coordination laws in Minnesota. It ensures that the laws regarding campaign finance disclosures reflect the expanded range of options employed in funding and influencing local and state elections. These include the growing use of online and social media advertising and campaign information, and expanded, creative methods to influence and coordinate campaign activities.

We specifically support the following important changes:

- Broadening the term "broadcast media" to encompass websites, social media, and other online sources of campaign information. With the expansion of digital media, many voters now primarily get campaign and voting information from online sources;
- Improved reporting of candidate loans and contributions to their campaign, providing improved transparency in campaign self-financing by wealthy individuals; and

- Expanding what is considered to be “coordination” to include indirect solicitation of advertising through online posts and on-line communications by candidates, parties, and other campaign organizations.

LWV Minnesota urges you to vote YES on SF 1996.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Huffman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Huffman, Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

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