



March 11, 2025

Re: SF 2386 –

Chair Carlson and Members of the Senate Elections Committee

On behalf of our 841 member cities across the state, the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) appreciates the opportunity to express our general support for SF2386 and highlight some of the ways the bill will be most helpful for local government elections administration.

LMC expresses strong support for the changes in Section 1, which puts the burden on residential facility employees to provide proof of qualified employment when vouching for residents and removes the burden from election officials having another group to track.

LMC also supports the additional flexibility in Section 5, allowing a municipality to be designated an absentee ballot location for all 46 days or just 18 days. We believe this flexibility will keep more municipal locations open and balance the staffing costs that come with that increased access for voters.

LMC supports the changes in Section 9, dealing with the opening of envelopes of absentee ballots and the needed clarity and specific processes outline for the local ballot board.

Lastly, LMC supports the changes in Section 16, the chain of custody plans, putting the requirement at the county level and allowing cities to be covered by the county plan, with the option to create their own if desired.

LMC would suggest an alternative to the changes proposed in Sections 26, 27 and 32 and would prefer that the early certification remain on the third day after the election but supports the proposed later duration of 14 days. We know there are counties who get results out quickly and LMC believes we should not limit cities and have them wait until the 8th day if they can get their work certified sooner giving them the option to include certification on a regular meeting agenda rather than having the added expense and workload of calling a special meeting.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Office of the Secretary of State's (OSS) election administration bill. We also want to express our gratitude for the partnership cities enjoy with the OSS, all the assistance and guidance they provide city election personnel and their willingness to hear our concerns and feedback on how best to administer elections on the local level.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pierre Willette
Senior Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities