

March 27, 2025

Common Cause MN is a nonpartisan grassroots organization working to create an open, transparent, and accountable government. Although we have a C4 arm, it is limited to lobbying activities, we do not endorse a political party or candidate. We have over 1.5M members nationwide and offices in 28 states, I lead the MN office. Over 26,000 Minnesotans belonging to various party affiliations, or not being affiliated, have come together to support our work ensuring our Republic's democracy is safeguarded, and everyone's vote counts.

We are dedicated to ensuring that every eligible Minnesotan can make their voice heard. Regardless of partisan affiliations, socio-economic background, race, religion, gender, or zip code, we strive to protect the voting rights of all. Each election year, we mobilize hundreds of nonpartisan volunteers statewide to assist their friends, neighbors, and community members in navigating the voting process and casting their votes without obstruction, confusion, or intimidation. During the peak of our program, we assigned over 1900 nonpartisan EP volunteers statewide.

Our nonpartisan election protection program includes three key components:

- **Election Protection (EP) Ambassadors:** Volunteers who educate and assist voters.
- **The Legal Hotline:** A resource for voters to get legal assistance and information.
- **Trained Nonpartisan Poll Monitors:** Individuals stationed at polling places to provide information, troubleshoot issues, and report any bad practices to our teams.

After election day, we debrief and work with election officials to resolve any issues identified. This ongoing effort supports our year-round work to advance strong voting reforms. By noting patterns or practices during elections, we bring problems to the attention of election officials and administrators and collaborate with them to develop commonsense solutions.

We are grateful to Senator Boldon for moving SF2846. This bill addresses two reoccurring issues which frequently come up on election day, 1) polling places that lack signage for curbside voting, 2) lack of notice at polling place that it's close with address of the new location posted.

### **Support for SF2846: Enhancing Voter Accessibility and Transparency**

The proposed changes to SF2846 are crucial for improving voter accessibility and transparency in Minnesota's election process. This bill mandates that if a polling place location is changed, local election officials must send a non-forwardable mailed notice to every affected household with at least one registered voter in the precinct at least 25 days before the next election. **This ensures that voters are informed well in advance of any changes.**

Additionally, SF2846 requires that a notice in large print be posted at the closed polling place, if practical, stating the location of the new polling place. This notice must also be visible to voters who vote from their motor vehicles. Importantly, the notice must be in all languages required for that

precinct, ensuring that non-English speaking voters are equally informed. These notices must remain posted for each primary and general election until a presidential election or redistricting occurs.

By implementing these changes, SF2846 addresses the needs of diverse communities and enhances the clarity of communication regarding polling place changes. This bill is a vital step towards ensuring that all voters, regardless of language or mobility, have the information they need to participate in the democratic process confidently. The passage of SF2846 will significantly contribute to a more transparent and accessible voting experience for all Minnesotans and addresses the two issues we've had commonly come up during our election protection program in 2016, 2020 and 2024.

**We support SF2846 and ask Committee members to vote yes for the following reasons:**

SF2846 provides clear guidelines and accountability to protect the integrity of our Republic's democratic process. It safeguards our right to cast votes based on the merit of the candidates, free from undue financial influence.

Members, please vote "yes" on SF2846.

*Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera*  
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