

April 21st, 2025

Governor Walz, Speaker Emerita Hortman, and Majority Leader Murphy,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write today to respectfully and urgently request that you fund the Minnesota Secretary of State's operating budget request for 26/27 and 28/29. Each year, as operating costs increase, it is imperative that we maintain critical services, staff, and infrastructure to ensure the continuing success of elections in Minnesota.

As advocates for strong civic engagement, accessible elections, and government transparency, we are deeply concerned about the impact the proposed budget cuts would have on the vital services administered by the Office of the Secretary of State. Without full funding, Minnesota's elections administration infrastructure and the Safe at Home program will bear the brunt of these reductions — undermining both our democratic processes and the safety of our most vulnerable residents.

Minnesota has long been a national leader in voter participation and safe and secure elections. But we cannot take that reputation for granted. As we face an unprecedented assault on our democracy at the federal level, including disinformation campaigns and attempts to delegitimize election outcomes, it is imperative that we strengthen our elections infrastructure here at home.

Funding the Secretary of State's operating budget is imperative for ensuring that our local election officials have the resources they need to do their jobs. Cutting the operating budget would mean there may be fewer staff resources to help register Minnesota businesses, to track and safeguard key government documents, and to assist county units in elections operations.

Moreover, the Safe at Home program provides critical protections for survivors of violence, abuse, and stalking. This program saves lives and ensures that all Minnesotans, regardless of circumstance, can participate safely in our democracy. It must not be compromised due to insufficient funding.

We urge you to demonstrate Minnesota's continued commitment to democracy and free and fair elections by funding the Secretary of State's operating budget in the final version of your state budget.

Thank you for your attention and leadership.

Sincerely,

- Asian American Organizing Project	- Jewish Community Action	- Minnesota Youth Collective
- Clean Water Action Minnesota	- Land Stewardship Action	- MN AFL-CIO
- Fairvote Minnesota	- League of Women Voters Minnesota	- OutFront Minnesota
- Indivisible Twin Cities	- Minnesota Chapter Move to Amend	- TakeAction Minnesota
- Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia	- Minnesota Nurses Association	- We Choose Us
- ISAIAH	- Minnesota Voice	