



March 4, 2024

Chair & Senator Jim Carlson
Senate Elections Committee
c/o Beth Fraser, Committee Administrator
Room 1200, Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St Paul, MN 55103

Re: Testimony in Support of SF 4431

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, that provides for maximum participation by citizens in the electoral process, and that protects representative democracy from being distorted by large-dollar, outside spending in state and local election campaigns.

LWV Minnesota supports SF 4431, Political Contribution Online Refund Claims System:

The League of Women Voters supports systems that make it easier for members of the public to participate in the political process, including supporting candidates of their preference in an equitable manner. Increasing the participation of small dollar donors and increasing the degree to which candidates for state and local office are supported by voters rather than external, large-dollar donors, provides a counter balance for external, large-dollar campaign donors. Many people have become more accustomed to using online systems rather than paper for financial transactions and filing taxes. Providing an online method of filing and receiving political contribution refunds (PCR), in addition to the existing paper form, provides an additional method to participate in supporting candidates and elections. Finally, integration of the PCR process and Department of Revenue tax refund processes supports prompt and efficient processing of tax refunds, providing further positive reinforcement for public participation in campaign finance.

LWV Minnesota urges you to vote YES on SF 4431.

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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