



March 24, 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 1812, Campaign Finance Reporting**

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 elections are not distorted by the influence of spending by wealthy individuals and political action committees.

### **LWV Minnesota supports SF 1812, Campaign Finance Reporting**

The League of Women Voters supports policies that ensure that elections are not distorted by the influence of spending by wealthy individuals and political action committees. The emerging practice of offering cash awards to voters for signing petitions, pledges, or other shows of support for candidates or candidate positions presents a singular challenge by the direct injection of money to influence the outcome of elections.

LWV MN specifically supports prohibiting the practice of offering money or the potential for a cash award to voters for signing petitions or pledges related to a current political campaign as described in the proposed amendment to SF 1812. These practices provide an unfair advantage the wealthy and political action committees, and present the potential for escalation of a new realm of campaign spending to influence voters outside of the candidates themselves.

We believe the proposed legislation would be more effective by addressing the following:

- Establish a period within which the activity would be prohibited, such as from the beginning of the absentee balloting period until the end of the election;
- Provide or reference a definition of the phrase “materially related” as this could be highly subjective. Lack of a clear definition, broad enough to encompass a range of anticipated practices, could limit the practical effect of the prohibition.

Sincerely,

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

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

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