

Katharine Hill
763 Holly Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

July 26, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today in strong support of the proposed Voter Information Ordinance. I am a professor at the St. Catherine University- University of St. Thomas School of Social Work, I am also a long time resident of St. Paul- I moved here to attend college and have been fortunate to continue to stay, work and raise my family here. I believe that making information about voter registration more accessible to all residents of St. Paul is a crucial component of building healthy neighborhoods and communities across our city.

As a social worker, I have spent my career advocating for the health and well being of all residents of our city. Participation in elections is a critical component of healthy communities. For example:

- Voting has been shown to strengthen social and community ties. Communities that vote have higher rates of social connectedness and social capital than communities that have lower rates of voter engagement (Blakely, Kennedy, & Ichiro, 2001)
- Voting has been linked with lower rates of unemployment (Circle, 2011) and of recidivism (Florida Parole Commission, 2011)
- People who vote have reported higher levels of well-being and better physical and mental outcomes than people who do not (Klar & Kasser, 2009; Sanders, 2001) For example, Sanders (2001) found that voting may help reduce rates of stress, depression and anxiety among some individuals.
- Voting is a learned behavior- people are more likely to vote if they see others voting as well. Increasing rates of voter participation will help provide examples for others in the community- including children, to participate themselves.

Despite the demonstrated positive impact of voter engagement, there are still many barriers to voter participation; in many states, ; there are both official and unofficial restrictions that lead to voter disengagement and voter suppression (McElwee, 2015). Even in Minnesota, where we have the highest rate of voter participation in the nation, there are barriers to participation for many people. For example, some of the mechanics of voting- the fact that most polling places are open during business hours, that Election Day is on a Tuesday, that voter registration information must be updated regularly, may pose challenges to accessing the ballot. Unfortunately, many of these barriers disproportionately impact communities who are already disengaged from the electoral process- low-income communities, people of color, and young voters (Lane, Humphreys, Graham, Matthews, & Moriarty, 2007; McElwee, 2015). Low voter participation, particularly by members of oppressed communities, is a problem because it reduces the likelihood of responsive governmental solutions to problems that are prevalent in these communities (Bartels, 2008; Frasure & Williams, 2009; Verba, Schlozman & Brady, 1995).

The Voter Information Ordinance addresses one of the most common barriers to voting for people, because it simplifies their access to voter registration materials. By making sure that renters are given basic information about voter registration for their new address, it provides a simple vehicle for them to update the information so that they can vote in the next election. Additionally, it sends a clear message to new tenants that they are valued members of their new neighborhood. It says to all residents of our city that we welcome their voice and participation in the political process. There

have been similar ordinances passed in other cities; I see no reason why St. Paul would not step forward to be a leader in recognizing and valuing all of our residents' voices in the electoral process.

I whole-heartedly support this ordinance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at (612) 396 1283 or via email at katharine.hill@stthomas.edu

Sincerely,

Katharine Hill, MSW, MPP, PhD, LISW

From: Jill Quednow [mailto:jquednow@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 10:50 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Creating Chapter 48 of the Legislative Code requiring property owners to provide voter registration information to tenants.

Dear City Council,

I am very pro voter registration and pro voting overall. I believe it is everyone's civic duty.

This being said landlords should not be taxed with this task. This is not part of property management and the time, energy and money it would take for landlords to do this would be better used in other areas.

I was a renter on the East Side of St. Paul for 10+ years, I always voted in every election. Yes, my polling place did change over the years. However, all anyone has to do is plug in your address into the polling place finder on the League of Women Voters website to find out where to go and what to bring.

It is the individuals responsibility to do their own civic duty, and vote. This should not be an added element to the job of the landlord of residential rental properties.

Thank you,
Jill Quednow

From: Terry Heim [mailto:terrydh@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 2:00 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Chapter 48 another requirement for landlords

You have nothing better to Do than find ways to make being a landlord more difficult and expensive?
This is a really inappropriate and is not something a landlord should have to be concerned with. Stick

To insuring safe and affordable housing and make public education the responsibility of the appropriate Entities.

Regards,
Terry H.

From: Chris Gottshall [mailto:chris.gottshall@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 2:38 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Comments for Public Hearing: Voter Information for Tenants

Dear Council Members,

I oppose the implementation of a new city ordinance requiring property owners to provide voter registration information. This move sounds like paperwork for paperwork's sake and lacks any proof that it will having a meaningful impact on voter registration. I would point out for you that according to the Secretary of State's website (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/registration-faqs/>) I can ALREADY update my voter registration information when I:

1. Obtain or renew a driver's license or state ID card
2. Update my address with the US Postal Service

Both of the above actions are already invoked by the act of moving into a new residence. If residents of the City are unwilling to update their address with the USPS they will not get their mail; and if they do not update their address with the DMV, they are not complying with those rules, either. I am unclear what additional benefit the council seeks to gain through this ordinance. If people aren't registering to vote via the existing channels available to them, what makes you think having their landlord tell them about voter registration is going to make an ounce of difference? I'm all for giving property owners appropriate administrative tasks via ordinances when the benefit to the community is clear. In this case, no benefit is apparent.

Respectfully,
Chris Gottshall

From: Nancy Hone [mailto:phonehone@igc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 2:42 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: renter voters

re: email just received about renters.

My comment:

I think it is insulting to renters to indicate they are less intelligent than non renters about voting. It is very patronizing to the nonvoter and to the landlord

I think this just adds another government oversight that is not needed.

What is next?

Will you pass an ordinance to go door to door to REQUIRE you to vote?

What is this REALLY about?

Please leave current law alone and do not vote for this!!!

RIDICULOUS!

Nancy Hone ward 4

From: beaudetd42@aol.com [mailto:beaudetd42@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 3:03 PM

To: Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Subject: Public Hearing -- Re: Landlord Voter Information for Tenants

Dear Council Members of St. Paul:

Here we go again making Landlords "responsible" for our tenants actions. This is ludicrous!!

By making amendments like this one (new laws), "Landlords shall be '**responsible**' to provide voting information to tenants," **sends the wrong message!** By passing a new ordinance law, like this one, the city council is in affect saying: It has come to our attention that "**Tenants**" are **not** intelligent enough to take responsibility for their own voting actions and abilities -- such as to seek out the voluminous amount of information available to them, to choose the candidate of their choice and to vote.

I wholeheartedly and completely "reject" the passing of such a rediculous ordinance.

Thank you for your attention.

David Beaudet, St. Paul, MN

From: Scott Kramer [mailto:skramer241@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 3:33 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Creating Chapter 48 comment

I oppose this.

I do not know why landlords should be burdened with this responsibility.

Put up billboards or something.

Let people take responsibility for learning how to vote.

Landlords have enough to do.

REALLY.

If this is truly critical please find another way

Scott Kramer

rental property owner.

241 George St. W.

From: Timothy Kennedy [mailto:Tim@thehiddenharbor.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 6:20 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: re: proposed Chapter 48

Re:

Creating Chapter 48 of the Legislative Code requiring property owners to provide voter registration information to tenants.

The Saint Paul City Council will hold a public hearing on August 1, 2018 to consider a new ordinance requiring rental property owners to provide voter registration information to tenants. The proposed ordinance would require owners of residential rental properties provide information to all tenants, who are 18 years of age or older, of their rights to register to vote in the state of Minnesota and provide information on how to register to vote. An owner may satisfy this requirement by providing voter registration information identified by the City Clerk.

Dear City Council Members,

There is no need for this ordinance. It is not the job of a landlord to promote voting registration. Attempting make it so is illogical and unnecessary. It also requires staff time to administer and, and it is impossible to enforce.

The City may accomplish its goal in other ways that are cheaper and more efficient. Because the City licenses rental properties, it already has the complete list of licensed residences. Mailing the material to "Occupant" at the addresses of rental units would accomplish the same goal, far more efficiently and economically. Or, the City could provide the material to the landlord for them to voluntarily give to renters.

Sincerely,

Tim Kennedy
Homeowner and landlord, Ward 2

From: toby sauro [mailto:tobysauro@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 7:02 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: property owner provide renters voter registration info

Dear council members, it is not a property owners responsibility to notify tenants of anything to do with the political process including voting !

TOBIN SAURO

tobysauro@gmail.com

From: Jane Pendergast, Ph.D. [mailto:jane.pendergast@duke.edu]

Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 8:44 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: penderhale@gmail.com

Subject: Chapter 48 of Legislative Code requiring rental property owners to provide voter registration information

Dear City Council,

My husband and I own a small house in St. Paul that we rent to our son and two of his friends. I would just like to voice my support for this idea of having rental property owners provide information on how to register to vote. I know that registering to vote is not the first thing on a young man's mind, but it is so very important. I would be more than happy to provide our renters with that information.

Sincerely,

Jane Pendergast

From: Tom McDonough [mailto:Tomm@tenaco.com]

Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 7:33 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: FW: Public Hearing: Voter Information for Tenants

Thank you for providing notice of this hearing. This was obviously provided to me as an owner of rental property in St. Paul. I purchased my first property in St. Paul in 1981. My wife and I occupied that property for 4.5 years and converted it to a rental property when we bought our second home in St. Paul in 1985. That original property and a number of others, all single family homes or duplexes purchased in the 1980's and 1990's, are still owned as rental properties in the City of St. Paul. We have provided affordable housing in the City of St. Paul for a great number of families over the past 33 years. I am writing the email as I am unable to attend the hearing next week due to a family obligation.

If you are tallying, I am absolutely against an ordinance requiring a landlord to provide voter registration information to tenants.

When I first saw this email, the absurdity of it made me think it was some kind of joke and I planned to ignore it. A thought came to me a day or so later and a quick search reflected that Minneapolis has already enacted this ordinance. Aha! So goes St. Paul. There are a number of issues that make me blanch at the thought of being required to provide this information, not the least of which is the notion that landlords have become responsible for an awful lot that is completely out of their control. Educating renters about smoke detectors and the danger of disabling them (which ends up being the responsibility of the landlord even though I don't know a single landlord that would

intentionally disable one), the intricacies of how a toilet works, how to change light bulbs, the importance of shoveling their sidewalks and cutting their grass, keeping their home and yard clean, respecting their neighbors, etc. has become the responsibility of the landlord as the landlord is penalized whenever there is a failure in any of these areas.

I agree that people should vote but it is not my responsibility or the responsibility of any landlord to have that discussion with a tenant. People have to take on some responsibilities for themselves. I do not campaign for any candidate or party and have no intention to do so in my lifetime. In my opinion this is forcing me to campaign. The City can say that this ordinance is not forcing anyone to campaign for any candidate; however, I see it differently. The materials a landlord must provide will be provided by the City Clerk. Maybe a landlord does not like the message. Maybe the message can be altered to favor one candidate or party. This is wrong. If there is an ordinance, there is undoubtedly a penalty for non-compliance. How can a landlord prove they have provided the required information; make each tenant over the age of 18 sign a form acknowledging they have received the information? This is another record keeping requirement for the landlord on top of the Code Compliance inspections, Section 8 inspections, rental property registrations, etc. Remember, providing housing is important to St. Paul. The landlord is not the bad guy and should not be treated as such. Let us do our jobs and those running for public office can do theirs; knock on doors or whatever is necessary to get out the vote. I am not running for any office and don't want to do that work for those that make the decision to run for office.

Please do not force me to become a campaigner for any candidate or party in the City of St. Paul or to give any other landlord the opportunity to use the information to campaign for a party or candidate. Do not adopt this ordinance. It will be another "nail in the coffin" for rental property owners and subsequently for those seeking housing in St. Paul. Who cares what Minneapolis does?

Sincerely,

Tom McDonough

From: Daniel Ruza [mailto:danruza@live.com]
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 12:11 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Voter Registration

NO. Maybe you should have the fire marshals inform them when they do the ridiculous inspections. Why is it my responsibility to teach some about their voting rights. Are you planning on having all retail store to register voter next. You guys need a job to keep you out of our lives

From: Thomas Nesheim [mailto:srthomasjn@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 28, 2018 10:51 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Public Hearing Chapter 48

I would just like to state that I believe that landlords should not be getting involved in voter registration of tenants. Landlords do not know where tenants have previously voted, if they are

eligible to vote, if they are registered at their parents home or other location, and should have no say in how or if tenants vote.

Tenants are intelligent and knowledgeable and are more than capable of voting if they choose to do so. While I understand the city council's objective of getting more people to vote, legislating a landlord's obligation to hand out voter information infringes on tenants privacy.

I understand that Minneapolis has passed this, and the comments about it were not kind from the general public, including jokes about what is next, driving their tenants to the voters booth. Which although sounds funny, doesn't sound too far off from where things are heading when you start asking landlords to get involved in tenants voter registration.

I believe a far better solution, would be to have someone from the city mail voter information to all tenants in the city, including information on where their voting location is. Another option would be to have volunteers walking to ALL Saint Paul residents and handing out voter registration forms and including information about where to vote.

Again I believe that there are better and more effective solutions than REQUIRING landlords to get involved in voter registration.

Thank you for taking the time to consider better alternatives to get more people to vote.

Thomas Nesheim

From: Chad Skally [mailto:chad@skally.com]

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 8:05 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Public comment regarding "Creating Chapter 48 of the Legislative Code"

I respectfully submit the following public comment to "Creating Chapter 48 of the Legislative Code requiring property owners to provide voter registration information to tenants."

Dear Council President and Council Members,

While I do not think there is anything I can tell you that will change your minds regarding the proposed ordinance on property owners giving tenants voter registration information, I can try to educate you about the people who rent apartments.

They are not stupid. They are adults who are just as capable as any homeowner in finding out how to register to vote.

In many ways they are smarter than homeowners because they do not need to mow a yard and shovel a sidewalk.

They are not second-class citizens. They may be a "tenant" of a property owner, but they are **residents** of this City. I always do my best to call everyone who lives in the buildings I manage "residents".

This ordinance is not about voter registration, it is about treating residents of apartments as a lower class than homeowners. If this ordinance is about voter registration than it would also require every home sale closing to include voter registration information. Or it would require neighborhood associations, not property owners, to provide voter registration materials to new residents.

I ask each of you to think to yourself why you treat residents of apartments as a lower class than homeowners?

If you do not think you treat residents of apartments as a lower class, than look no further than this ordinance to see that you are.

Chad Skally
Ward 3 Resident
Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4 Small Business Owner

From: Jeffrey Arnold [<mailto:jarnold@lakewoodenterprises.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 10:09 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward1
Cc: Kelley, Pattie (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Chapter 48 Re Voter Information To Tenants

Dear Councilmembers Tolbert and Thao,
I'm writing to you today regarding the proposed language for Ordinance 18-42, Notification of Voter Registration Information. I recognize the good intentions of the proposed ordinance, but have major concerns – particularly over the section that imposes a criminal penalty on landlords who don't give their tenants voter registration information.

I live in Ward 3. I own and manage residential rental property in Ward 1 and Ward 3. My family has owned rental property in St Paul for over 35 years. Our goal has been fairly simple - to provide a clean and safe place for people to live. In the past around election season I have posted voter registration information at my multi-unit buildings with links to the MN Secretary of State's website. I want people to vote. However, I take great offense at the City turning what I do out of a sense of civic duty into a government imposed chore.

As currently written the ordinance represents an unfunded mandate on landlords that is unrelated to the primary goals of rental housing or landlord-tenant regulations. I understand the City regulating my business when it comes to matters of safety, health, and consumer protection, but this goes too far. The ordinance also lacks the necessary clarity for adequate enforcement, or even to provide landlords sufficient information to understand the consequences. What could this do to future development of multi-unit housing in the city? The proposed ordinance states that a violation "shall be a petty misdemeanor." However, there is no detail. How much will the fine be? What will be the enforcement mechanism? What will be done with the money collected from these fines? Does the City wish to spend limited enforcement resources on a topic that is so far afield from the key components of rental housing regulations?

I also fail to see why the City Clerk should be responsible for duplicating work the Secretary of State already does.

The state of Minnesota already allows for people to register to vote when they renew their state issued IDs. While not everyone uses an ID, this is a great avenue for increasing voter registration and something that tenants should be doing anyway when they move into a new place.

Finally, I'm troubled that landlords are being singled out with this ordinance. I understand that renters may move more frequently and may contain a population that has more recently become eligible voters. However, if the objective is to get information to more people when they move why not include all businesses involved in the process – real estate agents, utility companies, moving companies, etc.? The omission of all these other entities that are involved in the moving process makes this proposal seem more like a swipe at landlords in general.

Perhaps the City could partner with the Secretary of State in a voter outreach program to target people in rental housing and invite landlords to participate. If the City wants to distribute a pamphlet I'd be happy to pass it on to our tenants. Also, by state law all landlords are required to provide information to tenants that is authored by the MN Attorney General (504B.275 for your reference and here is a link to that information <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/handbooks/lt/default.asp>). Another option is that the City could encourage the Secretary of State to work with the Attorney General to include voter registration information in this tenant handbook that is already published.

Again, I laud the intention of expanding voter registration. I don't feel this proposed ordinance is the best way to go about it. I strongly encourage you to vote against this measure and find another solution.

Thank you,

Jeffrey R Arnold
Lakewood Enterprises, Inc.

From: terry mulally [<mailto:mulally@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 9:21 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Fw: Public Hearing: Voter Information for Tenants

City Council; I oppose this new ordinance requiring rental property owners providing voter registration info to tenants.

I have several questions and concerns: My obligation to determine if the tenant is legally approved to vote is a breach of privacy. Such as if the tenant has a felony conviction or is not a US citizen, both cases of not being eligible to vote.

I do not reside in Saint Paul, how would I be informed of that tenants place for voting, or where to find that info?

Is there a fine to the land owner if the info isn't provided as the city council expects? My tenant already is registered and doesn't require any more information.

What if I find out though politics discussion in the course of voter info. requirements that we are at odds in opinion on political beliefs? Then am I able to raise the rent as punishment?

I know Saint Paul has an ordinance against President Trump visiting or stepping foot in Saint Paul. If I find out the tenants are Trump supporters is that grounds for eviction? As crazy as that sounds, what does that say about tolerance of the City of Saint Paul to bar the US president from visiting the city? And not just an opinion for discussion, an ordinance voted on by the city council!! I hope that has been canceled.

Wouldn't we be best served for the our city leaders sticking to basic matters of city services and affordable housing and avoiding politics? Placing extra burdens on the property owners will only drive up the cost of renting. Why doesn't the city just send a card in the mail to tenants, or to every address in the city, which is all that's needed.

Sincerely

Terry Mulally

From: Brian Kelly [mailto:kelly.brianp@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 2:24 PM

To: Prince, Jane (CI-StPaul) <Jane.Prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Requiring property owners to provide voter registration information to tenants.

Ms. Prince,

I am a resident of Ward 7 in Saint Paul and a rental property owner. I recently received an email that the city council is considering a new ordinance requiring rental property owners to provide voter registration information to tenants. I believe that voting is a critical part of civic engagement, and it is in the city's interest to maximize voter turnout. However, I disagree that it should be the responsibility of landlords to inform their tenants on how to register to vote.

First off, it is an inefficient way to accomplish the goal of informing residents about how to register to vote. It is going to be hard to enforce compliance with the ordinance because almost no one will complain to the city if they don't get their materials. How many landlords will follow through? Maybe 10%? The city already has the address of all of the rental properties in the city that have a certificate of occupancy (C of O). If the city really cared about distributing this information, it could simply mail the information to all rental addresses and ensure 100% coverage.

Second, I just have to say REALLY!?! Should I notify my tenants in writing that they should file taxes by April 15th, that they should get a dental cleaning every six months, that they should do a free credit check one a year, that they should renew their drivers license when it expires, and so on? These are adults we are dealing with, and landlords are not tenants' parents.

I have other rental properties in nearby cities outside of Saint Paul. I am not a problem landlord - I have well maintained properties and always respond quickly to any tenant or city inspector concerns. In my experience, dealing with the regulations in Saint Paul (especially the C of O and Department of Safety and Inspections) is much more difficult than in surrounding cities. It makes it

harder to do business. I love Saint Paul and want to continue to invest here, but proposals such as this one make it harder and harder to justify. I hope that the city council will decide not to adopt the proposed ordinance.

Thank you.

Brian Kelly
Ward 7

Dear Council Members of St. Paul:

I believe I speak for "many" other Landlords, when the city wants to make 'us responsible' for the actions and interests of our tenants, as if they are babies, and need to be spoon fed!

By making amendments like this proposed new law ordinance, "Landlords shall be '**responsible**' to provide voting information to tenants," **sends the wrong message!** By taking this action, the city council is basically saying: **It has come to our attention that "Tenants" are not intelligent enough or ambitious enough to take responsibility for their own voting actions and abilities, or to seek out for themselves the voluminous amount of voting information available to them, to choose the candidate of their choice, and to vote.**

I wholeheartedly and completely "reject" the passing of such a ludicrous and ridiculous ordinance.

David Beaudet, St. Paul, MN

My name is Gary Fifield. I live at 1893 Berkeley Ave. in Ward 3.

I am writing to strongly encourage adoption of Ord 18-42. Voting is critical to being engaged in one's community. This ordinance would provide one more means of encouraging that engagement, at little cost or effort. Obviously, new tenants have just moved and undoubtedly need to register anew to vote. This is a very timely measure given the importance of this year's political environment. Please adopt this measure.

Gary Fifield

August 1, 2018

TO: Saint Paul City Council Members
RE: Public Hearing of Ord 18-42

My name is Lyn Burton. I live at 2144 Edgcumbe Rd., Saint Paul, MN 55116 in Ward 3.

I am a founding member of Minnesota Let People Vote (MNLPV), a grass-roots neighborhood effort initially started in 2017 along with several other residents in Ward 3 as an ACLU People Power group. We now have members throughout the metropolitan area. In collaboration with the League of Women

Voters, ACLU, and Common Cause, among others, MNLPV members are engaged in voter registration efforts, including at public venues such as Rondo Days, Highland Fest, Open Streets, etc.

Our activities have taught us that renters often are unregistered and uninformed about where and when to vote since they may be transient, may be new US citizens, and may speak English as a second language.

As someone who has worked in the field of affordable housing for over 45 years, I can attest to the frequent mobility of renters throughout the City. Most adults in the households work during the day and/or care for small children at home and may lack time and resources to become better informed about how to participate in the process of voting. This ordinance would make it easier for them to become engaged community voters.

The proposed resolution to require property owners and management companies to include voter registration material in all new tenant information packets will not add an undue burden to the rental process and will encourage broader civic participation.

I encourage passage of ORD 18-42. Thank you for your consideration.



August 1, 2018

TO: Saint Paul City Council Members

RE: Public Hearing of Ord 18-42

My name is Carol Duling. I live at 1337 Prior Ave. South, Saint Paul, MN 55116 in Ward 3.

I am a member of Minnesota Let People Vote (MNLPV), a grass-roots effort. MNLPV members are engaged in voter registration efforts because we perceive voting as fundamental to our democracy.

Renters often are unregistered and do not know where and when to vote since they may be transient, may be new U.S. citizens, and may speak English as a second language.

Renters frequently move, which presents a challenge. Most adults in the households work during the day and/or care for small children at home and may lack time and resources to become better informed about how to participate in the process of voting. This ordinance would make it easier for them to become engaged voters.

The proposed resolution to require property owners and management companies to include voter registration material in all new tenant information packets will not add an undue burden to the rental process and will encourage broader civic participation.

I encourage passage of ORD 18-42.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Duling

From: 295 Hoyt Ave Homes [<mailto:hoytavehomes@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 5:25 PM

To: OBrien, Kim (CI-StPaul) <kim.obrien@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Feedback on Ordinance: Property owners mandated to provide voter reg info to renters

Dear Council Member Brendmoen,

We thank your aide for talking with Property Manager Sandy Moua yesterday regarding the proposed ordinance to mandate for rental property owners to give voter registration material and information to their renters.

Your aide admitted that there was very limited research and that this whole ordinance proposal was rushed. We appreciate her honesty because it echoes our thoughts.

Mayor Carter wants to create more equity for our city. The “e” in equity is for engagement. Based on the info your aide provided- this process lacked enough engagement and is therefore, inequitable.

We urge you and your colleagues to re-consider this ordinance due to based on these reasons:

1. You consulted with only several rental property organizations. These organizations do not represent the many rental property owners who only own less than 5 properties nor do they represent owners who do not speak English as a second language.
2. You have not consulted with your renters- many of who speak English as a second language and who do not necessarily read their language.
3. You sent out notice of this ordinance only to owners already on your email list and mailed this out only to addresses that DSI reluctantly provided. Therefore this did not reach the majority of owners.
4. You didn't do research on sound voter engagement practices and current local efforts. As a 3-time metro-wide Voter Education Outreach Campaign Manager who has outreached in St. Paul, Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs, Sandy Moua knows, for a fact, that voters will vote when they are contacted 3 times directly by someone who speaks their language or is someone they trust at least and also when this is wrapped around direct services. While its a nice thought to mandate rental property owners to give them this information, your goal of increasing voter turnout will not be met.
5. There are over 10 local organizations and the Minneapolis Foundation funded to do voter engagement work. This is a missed opportunity for you and elected officials to partner up.
6. This ordinance is overreaching and not appropriate. We are in the business of managing properties and ensuring they are livable. We are not in the business of carrying out a task that belongs to the state, the county and the city.
7. Property taxes are the majority of city revenue. If you want to build positive relationships with property owners- who pay these taxes- then this ordinance will alienate them. We are sure if you had approached us by asking for our feedback, many of us would be happy to share voter information, sans an ordinance.

We respectfully request again that you re-consider this ordinance due to lack of equitable engagement and lack of research and instead, re-engage with owners, renters and voter engagement effort to understand and utilize existing resources and partnerships.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback as this is the bedrock of our democracy.

Sincerely,
Rental property owner Chouate Lee
Rental property owner Ruth Kunkel
and
Property Manager Sandy Moua
Hoyt Ave Homes
295 Hoyt Ave East, Unit 1-4
St. Paul, MN 55130