



April 27, 2020

The Honorable Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

I am writing this letter to advise you of the immediate need to modify Minnesota Election Laws Section 8205.1030 Signing Petitions. Because of the life threatening COVID-19 virus and its risk upon all Minnesotans, as well as the social distancing restrictions being enforced under the Minnesota Emergency Executive Orders 20-20 and 20-33, the Minnesota Election Laws should be changed to allow for digital signatures. This will further the effort to protect the health and wellbeing of all Minnesotans. Though the signature requirement does not clearly say they have to be handwritten in the Election Laws, so it must be implied. Therefore, Governor Walz should progress Minnesota into the twenty-first century and allow for the acceptance of digital signatures in the petition process for the near-term as well as in the future.

The Minnesota Emergency Executive Order 20-20 and 20-33 has severely impacted the ability of minor party candidates and independent candidates from being able to assemble and complete the actions necessary to successfully obtain petition signatures. Your Order was very clear requiring residents to “stay at home or in their place of residence except to engage in the Activities and Critical Sector work” of which did not include petitioning as an “Activity.” Therefore, Governor Walz should also consider extending the timeframe per Minnesota Election Laws Section 204B.09 to file petitions with the Secretary of State beyond June 2, 2020. Other States have taken this action, either voluntarily or through lawsuits in the courts (*i.e. Libertarian Party of Illinois, et. al. v. Prtizker, et al., No. 1:20-cv-02112*).

Above is not an all-inclusive list, the Secretary of State may be aware of other Minnesota Election Laws that should also be modified to ensure a fair election.

In order to protect democracy and the rights given by the First and Fourteenth Amendment of The Constitution of the United States, please expeditiously act ensuring candidates their constitutional rights under our great institution of democracy created by our Founding Fathers.

Sincerely,

SCOTT M. MAGIE
Chairman of the Democratic-Republican Party (“Dem-Rep”)

cc: Honorable Steve Simon, Minnesota Secretary of State

“The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.” – President James Madison