

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dwayne Voegeli. I am a Winona County Board Commissioner (9 years) and a High School Social Studies Teacher (27 years).

I am writing in regards to the Protect and Advance Democracy Act.

I have been a strong supporter of ranked choice voting for over 20 years.

This system of voting provides for more accurate results. It saves taxpayer dollars. It leads to a shorter and more positive campaign season.

Here is one concrete example from Winona County.

We currently need to have a special election to fill a vacant County Commissioner seat.

There are three candidates running for the position. Because there are three candidates, a primary election will take place in May, followed by the general election in August.

If we had a ranked choice voting system in place, there would not be a need for a primary election. It would save taxpayer dollars, and it would allow us to fill that seat much sooner.

Thank you for your time and service to the people of Minnesota.

Dwayne Voegeli