

February 19, 2020

Testimony in support of HF983

It is criminal how political parties control both our state and federal government. Ninety-four percent of the "Leadership" titles for the Minnesota State House and Senate are explicitly political appointments, having the descriptor of "Minority" or "Majority". Beyond this, election for the Speaker of the house is conducted behind closed doors by members of the majority party. Special interest groups are decried as a corruption problem within our government, yet the influence of the NRA, Unions, PACs, Super PACs, Big Pharma/oil/med device etc. doesn't come close to the corrupt influence of political parties. The only sanctioned power of political parties in the Minnesota Constitution is to REQUIRE equal numbers of political party members who vote for legislators pay raises. This single instance is indicative of the corrupt power of political parties as it is like requiring ex-gang members to be on the jury for trials of gang members. There is no mention of political parties in the US Constitution

The root cause of most governing corruption, inefficiencies, bad decisions, bias, inaction, and group think is the duopoly-monopoly of the political party system and the corrupt election process controlled by two major political parties. In the 2016 Primary election, there were 33 states that had some form of closed primary, meaning that you may not have been able to vote in the primary if you were not a party member and the membership was challenged. If you were in one of the 12 states with strictly closed primaries, you may not have been allowed to vote for either party! This is not choice, this is not freedom, this is not democracy. Independent of this, the deciding vote for Hillary Clinton was made by super delegates, an oligarchy of Democratic party faithful. This meant that even if you were allowed to vote for a democratic candidate, your vote was severely discounted with each opposing super delegate having the equivalency of over 7,300 individual voters. When the two major party nominees are selected, they block out all other candidates because they are so disliked. No one will "Waste" their vote on a non-duopoly party candidate because they have to vote for the lesser of two evils, both of which the voter may not have had any say in selecting. I am tired of voting out of fear, I am tired of voting defensively. This. Is. Not. Freedom.

Primary elections are like a foundation of a house. The foundation of the house limits what you can build on it. The political parties control primary elections and thus limit my options in the general election to the extreme left or right. I cannot speak for any voter other than myself, however, I have high confidence that even if Trump supporters had to choose between Hillary or Gary Johnson, they would overwhelmingly choose Gary; and Hillary supporters would likely choose Gary over Trump. Given the duopoly monopoly election, I believe the majority of votes were not for one candidate, but against the other candidate they didn't want to win. Gary Johnson ended up being the first choice of only 3% of the voters (an underestimate due to the fear vote), but Gary would have been almost everyone's second choice making Gary winning the election being the least unsatisfying outcome. This kind of outcome will not be possible without Rank Choice Voting and open primaries.

I will be voting in the Primary on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and I will be forced to trade my integrity for my freedom. I will have to lie, stating that I believe in what the political party believes to be able to vote. This is like a forced confession a political prisoner signs to get a reduced sentence. Allowing Rank Choice Voting is the first step in changing this corrupt situation. I urge you to vote for HF983 so that I and my fellow citizens have the freedom to vote for who we want to win, not forced to vote against who we don't want to win. We should not have to abide by anyone's values other than our own to have the freedom to vote. Voting no on HF 983 shows you care more about political party control of government than you care about your constituent's, their choice, or their freedom. Vote Yes on HF 983.

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