

March 16, 2023
2411 Merrihills Dr SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Honorable Chair Mike Freiberg
House Elections Finance and Policy Committee
381 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 2486

Dear Chair Freiberg,

I had hundreds of conversations with people in Dodge County last year who had never had a candidate knock on their door. Why? Because elections have become high stakes, polarized events where only some places and some races matter.

Yet we talked about issues that impact their lives, like why property taxes are high, how to pay for schools, fix roads, and solve the mental health crisis. People felt disconnected from the democratic process. They don't know how and where decisions are being made.

So, let's allow more people into the process, to make solving our collective problems the center of our elections. We've seen how polarization threatens our democracy and our ability to get things done. With many candidates, representing diverse perspectives on the ballot, issues become central to how people will make their choices. This will increase their investment in the democratic process.

With ranked choice voting, we can avoid low turnout primaries and avoid losing voters in November when the candidate that excited them may no longer be on the ballot. When people feel their vote really matters, our democracy is stronger.

My city, Rochester, submitted a resolution in support of HF2486 to ensure diverse candidates and ideas are on the November ballot. I want this option in future elections.

Minnesota shows it can lead in so many areas. Let's also be the democracy state and pass HF2486 to allow statewide ranked choice voting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aleta Borrud". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aleta" being more prominent than the last name "Borrud".

Aleta Borrud, MD MPH