

February 2nd, 2023

Dear members of the Minnesota Senate Elections Committee,

My name is Jean Giebenhain and I live in **St. Paul, District 66A**. I firmly believe that the best way to protect our democracy is to expand it and this session, Minnesota voters expect our legislators to take action on long overdue legislation.

Expanding democracy means **improving voter access** to ensure every Minnesotan has the freedom to vote and putting power back in the hands of people by reducing the influence of corporations and wealthy special interests in our elections.

**Over the summer I had the opportunity to speak with people experiencing homelessness. They discussed how difficult it was for them to vote, and expressed frustration and disappointment with our government. They need and deserve the ability to vote, without undue burdens. I would like to see them fully included and their voices encourage and heard. THEY MATTER.**

**Policies like automatic voter registration, restoring the right to vote to community members on probation or parole, providing translated language resources at the ballot box,** strengthening campaign finance disclosure, and modernizing our public finance system are popular with Minnesotans and the right things to do.

**That is why I support the Democracy for the People Act, as it begins to make the promise of democracy real for us all.** This is long overdue. The time is now for our democracy. What we do now matters.

Sincerely,

*Jean Giebenhain*

District 66A