

March 8, 2023  
2411 Merrihills Dr SW  
Rochester, MN 55902

Chair Jim Carlson  
Senate Elections Committee  
3221 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF2270

Dear Chair Carlson,

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 on the ballot, issues become central to how people will make their choices and will increase their investment in the process.

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

My city, Rochester, submitted a resolution in support of SF2270 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 SF2270 to allow statewide ranked choice voting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aleta Borrud". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aleta Borrud, MD MPH