

Dear Senate Elections Committee,

The Winona State College Democrats are writing in support of the Protect and Advance Democracy Act. We support Ranked Choice Voting because it gives us more of a choice in which candidates we support. Students we have spoken to said they would be more likely to vote if they had a greater choice in candidates. It will help underrepresented BIPOC communities get into office, which is something we feel strongly about. And most importantly, it will help keep extremism out of politics.

To us, the future of our democracy is being challenged by growing extremism, something students at WSU have dealt with first hand. We had the PragerU speaker Amala Ekpunobi come to our campus two times over the past two years. A majority of students, faculty, and even community members do not support her extremist rhetoric. We are fearful of the direction extremism is leading our state and nation.

Ranked Choice Voting can help keep extremists out of office and make bi-partisanship easier. It has already been proven to do so. Alaska Congressman Mary Peltola is a great example of that. Congressman Peltola beat out her extremist opponent, Sarah Palin, by running a civil campaign and agreeing with Palin on certain issues, rather than attacking her politics. We would like to see more people like Congressman Peltola be elected to office who care about building coalitions and representing all of their constituents.

As the generation that is inheriting our democracy's problems, we ask you to support our future by supporting the Protect and Advance Democracy Act.

-Winona State College Democrats