

Testimony

SF 1827 has no purpose other than to squash third parties and increase the power of the corrupt duopoly monopoly.

Today's proceeding is like being at a local school board meeting where they are debating increasing meth we are giving kids for lunch from 5 grams a day to 10 grams a day. While the debate over 5 or 10 grams rages on, no one questions the foundation of the issue, which is the school handing out meth to kids. Likewise, SF 1827 attempts to increase the power of ONLY the duopoly monopoly and reduce the opportunity for third party candidates to get elected, ignoring the fact that political parties are unethical, toxic, self serving, and explicitly corrupt. You should be spending your efforts getting political parties out of the election process, not enhancing their ability to control and corrupt elections.

Here are the five major problems with political parties:

1. **Unethical purpose:** The partys' shared stated purpose in their respective constitutions of electing members is above an beyond any other meaningful purpose. Show me an organization who's primary purpose is to perpetuate itself above and beyond any other meaningful purpose and I'll show you a corrupt organization
2. **Conflict of Interest:** The stated purpose of electing members is in conflict with the unstated purpose of controlling government. We expect that lawmakers will govern on our behalf with honesty, integrity, and in the interest of their constituents. You can not do this when every decision you make is with an eye towards re-election.
3. **Promotion of incumbency:** Political parties promote and protect incumbency. Once a "Cult" member is in office, there little motivation to initiate any change.
 - Incumbents are less likely to have any challengers in the primary from their own party,
 - illustrated by this committee where only two of you had a contested primary.
 - Incumbents are less likely to have any challengers from the other party in the general election
 - One of you had no challenger in the general election and all of you won the general elections by a combined average of over 63%
 - Incumbents are less likely to debate or have open dialog with the public.
 - How many, if any of the committee members held debates during your respective campaigns?
4. **Corrupt campaign finance:** The duopoly monopoly is has created a highly effective corrupt campaign finance structure, pooling money from all over the country and then funneling this money into areas to influence elections. Donations are solicited from donors in one state and used to influence an election in another state where the donor cannot vote or be *legitimately* represented by the candidate.

5. **Hijacked black market elections:** Of the 402 races for 201 seats, 376 candidates were endorsed by the political parties in May. 375 (99.7%) of the endorsed candidates won their primaries (US House, State Executive, State House/Senate). They won their primaries by an overall average of 95% of the vote, making the primary more ceremonial than a representation of any public choice. We talk about "the 1%" when we refer to the elite, the wealthy, the people that have the power. 1% is inappropriate to describe the party faithful that put you in the seats your sitting in today. In the 2022 general election, candidates were pre-selected by a miniscule portion Minnesota's voter population (4.2M voters in MN, DFL convention had 1,200 delegates or less than 0.003%, GOP convention had over 2,200 delegates or just over 0.005%). Make no mistake, the primary did not happen in August, it happened in May, when 99.99% of Minnesota's voting population were banned from participating in the election process. This means if you aren't a party member, you have no voice in the selection of candidates competing in the general election. While parties deceitfully state that the caucuses and conventions are for all Minnesotans, they also state that you must in general believe the respective party ideals to participate and cannot be a member of any other party. With these five problems that are embedded in the operation of the red and blue yard sign parties, I do not possess the moral or ethical flexibility to support either party. Regarding the party platforms, my views are not so narrow minded as to fit in the tiny restricted black and white confines of the party platforms. These two restrictions ban me from participating in the caucuses or conventions.

Political parties have created such division in this country that the winners of the general election are decided by the gerrymandered district and the color of a blue or red yard sign, not by fair representation of the constituency. If it's a blue yard sign district, then the democrat will win, if it's a red yard sign district, the GOP will win. And how did the two candidates from each party get on the ballot? They were "Selected" by voters in the Primary. How did the candidates get on the Primary ballot? They were selected by a tiny oligarchy of hard line party cultists at the May conventions, events controlled by political parties.

To deal with the embedded corruption problem of political parties, the best move forward is to implement proportional voting, RCV, and Open non-partisan primaries. The second best path is to remove barriers for other parties candidates to get elected, the third best path is to leave things as they are, the fourth worst path is to put up more barriers to anyone except the corrupt Duopoly Monopoly, which is what this bill does.

Thomas Jefferson said "A politician looks forward to the next election. A statesman looks forward to the next generation"

If you are a statesman and not a politician, vote no on this bill.