

February 21, 2024

To the Members of the Senate Elections Committee:

My name is Emily Crabtree. I am the Executive Director of the Luverne Area Community Foundation serving the County of Rock in southwest Minnesota. I am a lifelong resident of rural Rock County and the state of MN and know very well the issues and voice of rural residents. My time away was spent during my college years but chose to return to raise my three children with my husband. I currently serve as a board member of FairVote Minnesota.

I strongly support and desire the local option of Rank Choice Voting in Minnesota. This desire comes from the sadness I feel from listening to my three adult children talk about the current state of politics and elections. The current polarization and inability to find any area of middle conversation leaves them uninterested in the process and without voice to even think they matter or make a difference in our current system. I strongly believe that Rank Choice Voting is a better process for giving voters more voice through more choice. If the future is someday to be led by my 21-26 year old children and their peers, we need to re-engage their interest and make it clear that we hear them and we need them in this process. Rank Choice Voting provides the best available answer to restore confidence in the future of democracy. Without it I fear what the state of our democracy will become.

I have spent time talking with my local elected officials at both the city and county levels. There is definitely an openness to have the local option to choose Rank Choice Voting if it were made available through state legislation. Through our conversations and their questions they quickly understood that this option has the potential to end the divisive rhetoric among us and expressed interest in seeing and or helping Rank Choice voting succeed for all resident of Minnesota.

For the sake of rural Minnesota voices we need to pass statewide local option for Rank Choice Voting now.

Sincerely,

Emily Crabtree
FairVote Minnesota board member/Secretary
Exec Director Luverne Area Community Foundation
Luverne, MN – County of Rock