



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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NEWS RELEASE
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Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Improve U.S. Congressional Elections

(Madison, Wisconsin) – On March 25, 2021, Senators Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) and Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire) and Representatives Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) and Daniel Riemer (D-Milwaukee) [introduced legislation \(SB250\)](#) to update the election method for federal elections in Wisconsin (U.S. Senate and U.S. House) to Final-Five Voting, the powerful combination of single ballot, top-five primaries and instant runoff general elections.

As Republicans and Democrats, we are ready to work side by side to advance this legislation and help make our federal elections better serve Wisconsinites.

Thanks to our colleagues who have co-sponsored this legislation, including: Reps. Jimmy Anderson (D-Fitchburg); Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay); Dave Considine (D-Baraboo); Alex Dallman (R-Green Lake); Dora Drake (D-Milwaukee); Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire); Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie); Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay); Tip McGuire (D-Kenosha); Beth Meyers (D-Bayfield); Clint Moses (R-Menomonie); Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville); Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point); Ken Skowronski (R-Franklin); Lisa Subeck (D-Madison); Ron Tusler (R-Harrison); Don Vruwink (D-Milton).

Statements from Co-Authors:

“As a believer in the free market, I know that competition results in better outcomes. That’s why I’m proud to be working with colleagues in the legislature on both sides on this legislation,” says Sen. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield). “When we circulated this legislation a few weeks ago, we were blown away by the interest in Final-Five Voting. It continues to grow.”

“Wisconsinites have a lot more in common than what divides us. Unfortunately, we’re stuck with a broken system that discourages collaboration and oftentimes rewards the candidates who are most divisive. We need to reform this system so that our state’s leaders prioritize our shared values as Wisconsinites over party allegiance,” says Sen. Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire).

“Most of us want to get things done. And yet, we have 10-12% of the population on the far left and the far right who have made “being primaried” into a verb. Our electoral system rewards partisan gridlock over the solutions so many of us agree on and it doesn’t have to be this way,” says Rep. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc).

“Our Founders and Framers did not include election details in the Wisconsin or U.S. Constitutions. Instead, they gave this responsibility to each state. We have an opportunity to embrace the responsibility they placed in us,” says Rep. Daniel Riemer (D-Milwaukee).

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