

Support Growing for Bipartisan Final-Five Voting Bill

Madison, Wis. – On March 25, 2021, Senators Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield), Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire) and Representatives Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc), Daniel Riemer (D-Milwaukee) introduced [legislation \(SB250\)](#) to improve US congressional elections in Wisconsin. This legislation would enact **Final-Five Voting**, the powerful combination of top-five primaries and instant runoff voting in general elections for U.S. Congressional races. The best resource to understand Final-Five Voting is this 17min TEDx Talk: <http://bit.ly/TedFFV>

“Leadership by elected officials in Madison to enact Final-Five Voting would go a long way in fixing Washington, D.C.,” said Katherine Gehl, co-chair of Democracy Found Action, a Wisconsin-based initiative committed to revitalizing democracy, and former chief executive officer of Gehl Foods. “FFV is not a political reform. It’s a political innovation. The purpose is not to tinker around the edges, not even to necessarily change *who* wins. The purpose is to transform what the winners are incented to accomplish and have the freedom to accomplish as our representatives in Washington, DC.”

Eighty-two percent of Americans are dissatisfied with Congress according to a [December 2020 Gallup poll](#). Dysfunction in Congress is incentivized by election rules that reward absolute fidelity to ideology because the party primary is the most important election. This makes it very hard for Congress to work collaboratively to solve our nation’s growing set of problems. Final-Five Voting is a solution designed to improve the system and incentives for Congress to bring results and accountability back to Washington.

“I am deeply concerned about the path our country is on. Our elected officials are no longer motivated or rewarded for solving problems. Detoured by excessive partisanship, Washington has lost its way. It will require systemic changes to bring us back to the promise of democracy, where all votes count and all voices are heard,” said Madeleine Lubar, board member of Democracy Found Action. “Introduction of legislation for Final-Five Voting is an important step forward.”

Since the bill was circulated, bipartisan support has been growing. Co-sponsors now include: 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); and Don Vruwink (D-Milton). U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher (WI 8th CD) is also supportive of this legislation.

“We are incredibly pleased to see growing bipartisan support for Final-Five Voting in Wisconsin,” says Austin Ramirez, co-chair of Democracy Found Action and chief executive officer of Husco. “Our supporters include a cross-section of Wisconsin business and community leaders with diverse interests and political ideologies. However, we are united in supporting Final-Five Voting and are committed to doing our part to help this legislation pass.”

A full list of Wisconsin supporters and more information on Final-Five Voting can be found at www.democracyfound.org.