



Sample Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir/Madame:

Like most of your readers, I'm tired of gridlock in Washington. But we can change the culture in Congress when we realize it's not the influence of lobbyists and money that's created the rampant lack of compromise. It's how representatives count the votes that put them in office. Luckily there's an easy fix.

As it stands House members know their job security depends on representing their most opinionated and reliable supporters. When elected leaders only feel beholden to the extreme sides of a debate, there is plenty of room for middle ground but nobody to fill it.

On the other hand, if a representative's voters include a variety of views, his or her policies reflect that breadth in the form of moderation and compromise.

We can foster more moderation with an electoral system that forces lawmakers to consider a wider array of constituents. It's called Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).

RCV allows voters to rank their candidate preferences. Instead of just voting for one candidate, voters also pick second and third choices to fill a seat. To win an RCV election, a candidate must receive a minimum percentage of the total vote. Thanks to candidate competition within and across parties, first choice votes in elections will rarely be enough to push a candidate past the vote threshold. Most winners will earn their jobs in Congress with a lot of second and third choice votes.

Just think about the new incentive RCV creates. To win and hold their seats, representatives not only consider the views of aligned voters who made them a top choice, but also the moderates and activists who put them in office by ranking them second or third.

If House members feel accountable to a wider variety of voters, the outcome is bound to be more open-minded moderation and compromise in Congress. Ranked Choice Voting is the key to getting us there.

Sincerely,

Your Name