



Fusion Voting “Elevator Pitch”

“We want to give voters in the middle a constructive way to influence the political process, so that more politicians listen to them, and ultimately policy will reflect the majority rather than the extremes.”

Kris Andrews, Executive Director, United Wisconsin

Fusion Voting – more choices, stronger voices

The two major political parties in the United States continue to elevate divisiveness instead of agreeing on solutions. Voters in the middle believe they have little voice – and limited choice. Nearly a third of Wisconsin voters don’t embrace either of the two major political parties. These voters want to be heard in determining Wisconsin’s future without feeling they’re wasting a vote or risking spoiling an election by supporting a third-party candidate with little chance of winning. There is a solution: Wisconsin courts should strike down the unconstitutional ban on “**fusion voting**.”

- **A simple solution:** Fusion voting allows more than one political party to nominate the same person as their candidate for an elected office. The ballot would look the same except a candidate could appear as the nominee for more than one political party. When the polls close, all the votes for that candidate are added together, or “fused,” to come up with the total votes for that candidate.
- **More voices, more solutions, less fighting:** Fusion voting would give voters the freedom to create and choose parties that better align with their personal values and priorities. When new parties gain real influence, they bring fresh solutions into the political conversation. Candidates who win with fusion support know they owe their victory to multiple constituencies, so they have to listen to all of them. Instead of just attacking opponents, candidates would need to give voters from every party a positive reason to choose them. Most importantly, fusion voting lets moderate coalitions form around majority concerns, breaking the stranglehold of the political extremes.
- **What’s old is new:** Wisconsin voters used fusion voting until 1897 when the major parties banned it to eliminate competition. For over a century now, they’ve maintained a monopoly on electoral power. States like Connecticut and New York still use fusion voting successfully. Our state constitutional lawsuit aims to restore this fundamental right and give Wisconsin voters back their voice in choosing leaders and shaping policy.

To learn more about fusion voting, please go to www.unitedwisconsin.org