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December 21, 2009

Dear FairVote Supporter,

Voting is the interface between the citizen and government. But there's so much cynicism these days. People feel marginalized – that voting is futile and that they're only spectators to the *insiders' game* of politics. It's easy to feel this way. Look at our elections and how uncompetitive most races are. The truth is our rules are designed by insiders for insiders.

Democracy in America has evolved since the birth of this Republic. But its progress took persistent prodding and a vision of a better way. That's FairVote's role today. **The United States is a longtime promoter of democracy abroad – but now we need *democracy building on our own shores*.** Too many wrongly think our current system is enshrined in the Constitution. In reality simple changes in law can open up our elections to real competition.

Creating opportunities for new voices and better choices is good for democracy. It's even good for the major parties. Here's why: People naturally associate with like-minded voters. In what amounts to an information revolution, association is exploding on the Internet. We need new voting rules that will complement the diversity we've grown to expect on-line.

It's time to bring our democracy truly into the 21st century. FairVote is leading the way with bold ideas and strategic action. We're a catalyst for a whole new way of organizing politics. We don't just talk – we work in communities to win change. We have led on achieving:

- ***A secure vote:*** We pioneered the call for a constitutional right to vote, publicly owned voting equipment and universal voter registration.
- ***Majority elections:*** We've established instant runoff voting to increase voter choice, with ballot measure wins in Oakland, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Memphis.
- ***Direct presidential elections:*** We were the first group to endorse National Popular Vote plan for presidential elections and play a key role in its advocacy as it gains support.
- ***Fair representation:*** We have helped secure proportional voting in cities and produced influential analyses showing how winner-take-all voting leads to no-choice elections.

Major reforms in the United States traditionally come in half-century waves. By this calendar, it is again time for change – if we think big and act together. States like yours can be a beacon of democracy, illuminating our nation with electoral inclusion. Please join me and a bipartisan coalition of reformers in making it happen. I urge you to make a year-end gift to FairVote.

Thanks for listening,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krist Novoselic".

Krist Novoselic
Chair, FairVote Board of Directors

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