

Statement in opposition to ranked choice voting legislation unless STAR voting is included

Dear Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, and Senators Burdick, Manning, and Thatcher,

I am opposed to bill 791 for the same reasons as stated in my testimony against bill 343. Ranked choice voting has a hidden spoiler effect which can produce wildly unpredictable results. Ranking your favorite candidate first can harm that same candidate, and can help your least favorite candidate to win. RCV has been studied extensively for decades and its serious shortcomings are well understood. For the last several years, Oregon activists have been working on a more modern, reliable, representative, and fair voting method: STAR voting. It is already in use around the state, including last year for the Independent Party of Oregon primary. We have three STAR voting ballot initiatives in progress, and thousands of supporters around the state are ready to hit the ground running with this better reform. Please include STAR voting in any new Oregon voting legislation you pass.

Thank you,
Annie Kallen
Portland