

Dear Committee members:

I strongly support efforts to adopt a better voting method. However, I think we need more public awareness of the issues involved before the state legislature makes decisions about this. I would prefer the legislature create a work group to assess alternative voting methods as a way to advance the cause without making a premature commitment to one of these methods.

As a former political science professor and long-time proponent of Ranked Choice Voting, I was heavily involved in the successful 2016 ballot initiative effort to bring RCV to Benton County. Although aware of the flaws of RCV, I regard it as superior to our usual "pick only one" voting method with its more serious flaws such as "spoiler" elections and the possibility of electing candidates without majority support from the voters.

However, after the 2016 election I became aware of STAR Voting and gave it serious scrutiny. STAR was invented in Oregon in 2014 as a method to solve the flaws of RCV. Among the many advantages of STAR Voting, these two are key:

1. It has a simpler tabulation method than RCV, making it easier to program into vote tabulation machines and easier for voters to understand election outcomes.
2. It utilizes all of voters' stated preferences, balancing both depth and breadth of voters' support when choosing a winner. In my opinion this will help to counteract the increasing partisanship our nation has been suffering.

I encourage you to find a way to move this discussion forward without committing to RCV before the legislature and the public are better informed about these issues.

Dr. Alan Zundel, resident of Eugene Oregon