Pacific Green Party of Oregon
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March 15, 2021

Dear members of the Rules Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Pacific Green Party to strongly urge the committee to support SB 791 (and SB 343) pertaining to the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting in Oregon.

Oregon is in a position to become a leader in strengthening the Democratic process in the US. As recent elections have shown, confidence in the elections is at an all-time low. The two party system is no longer able to represent the plurality of opinions. This causes a problem, not only for Democracy in general, but also for the two major parties themselves.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a proven, elegant and cost-effective solution. Specific benefits of implementing RCV include:

1) RCV saves on the cost of staging run-off elections; whenever an election remains contested, it allows for immediate run-off tally.

3) RCV enhances political discourse by allowing a discussion of alternative not captured by the two main parties. At a time when we are facing forces rarely seen before such as climate change, discontent with the two-party system and at times violent movements, this becomes imperative.

4) RCV keeps elections more issue oriented with less negative mud-slinging. A candidate would want to ensure that she/he is 1st or 2nd choice of voters; so they would avoid alienating those voters with negative campaigning.

5) RCV is a proven electoral reform that enhances voter choice. It eliminates the third party "spoiler effect." This so-called "spoilage" is a distortion of the existing antiquated system. How can participation in elections be considered a negative?

6) RCV increases voter participation, not only by increasing participation to the polls, but also by allowing more viable candidates to be willing to run for office.

Sincerely,

Nathalie Paravicini, ND
On behalf of PGPOR SCC members
Mary Geddry, Ken Adams, George Huthinson, Emma Lugo,
Brian Setzler, Suzia Aufderheide, Justin Filip