

My name is James Davis, and I serve as the Communications Officer for the Multnomah Democratic Party and as a delegation member to the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Oregon.

I'm very concerned about the potential risks that SB 343 and SB 791 pose to Democratic candidates in future elections. Unless we fix these bills, no Democrat should support them, especially not Democrats in urban areas.

There is a reason that RCV has been consistently repealed in nearly all the US cities in which it has been tried in the past 100 years. The failings of RCV are by now well-documented, but the most important of those for us who care about truly representative government is its history of electing minority-supported candidates. Only a fool keeps taking the same path hoping it leads to a different destination. As a party that cares about representative government, we can't afford to take that risk again.

We DO need a preference voting system that allows voters to express support for more than one candidate so that if their favorite can't win, their vote still goes to the candidate they prefer more in an automatic runoff. Unfortunately, when there are more than two viable candidates in RCV, ranking your favorite first can backfire and help elect your least favorite.

The Election Integrity Caucus of the state Democratic party recently completed an 18 month study on alternative voting methods and produced a very readable report detailing the issues and better alternatives. Please download it at <http://multdems.org/votingreport>

There is no reason for us to make the same mistakes other communities have made. The DPO Election Integrity study calls out STAR Voting as a proven alternative that should be made available to those jurisdictions throughout Oregon which want to truly eliminate vote splitting, allow voters to vote their conscience and ensure election winners are truly supported by a majority of voters.

If you add STAR Voting as an option in these bills, or the option to use the STAR tabulation process to fix RCV, that would create a viable alternative that would make these bills better serve the interest of truly representative democracy. In that case, I could support both bills.

Thanks for your time.

James Davis