

March 17, 2021

Senator Rob Wagner, Chair
Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Wagner and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 343. My name is Steve Callaway, I am the Mayor of Hillsboro, but to be clear this is my personal position.

I support Ranked Choice Voting. Since I first learned of it several years ago I wanted to have this option available for Hillsboro.

Recently Hillsboro had six candidates for an open Council position. The individual who won is imminently qualified and the candidate I supported. But I also believe that Hillsboro would be well served to have a candidate elected by more than 50% of those who voted and in a crowded field Ranked Choice Voting does just that.

Several years ago I spoke at a naturalization ceremony and told new citizens that the most sacred right they have as American citizens is the right to vote. Ranked Choice Voting makes sure their votes count.

Sometimes voters may feel like "none of the above" is the best option and they can choose this option by not selecting any candidate. Other times when there is more than one desirable candidate Ranked Choice Voting provides the option for more than "one of the above."

While I anticipate there might be some reluctance to change in election departments across the state due to changes in formatting and tallying the votes, "Vote by Mail" was a greater change and it has proven to be a great success. Because it Ranked Choice Voting has been successfully implemented in other parts of the country and this state it will be easy to find solutions and answers for concerns.

Thank you for granting a hearing for this bill. I ask for your support and the opportunity for my city to make this choice for ourselves by passing SB 343.

Thank you.