

Submitter: Lachlan Wilger  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

To the honorable members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I write to you today as a concerned citizen, deeply invested in the democratic future of our great state. It is with earnest hope and conviction that I implore you to consider the implementation of ranked choice voting (RCV) in Oregon. This transformative electoral system has the power to bring about significant positive changes that will benefit us all.

Imagine a political landscape where every voice matters, where voters can express their true preferences without fear of wasted votes. Ranked choice voting offers this promise of inclusivity and fairness. By allowing us to rank candidates in order of preference, RCV ensures that our voices are heard, regardless of which candidate emerges as the winner. It breaks free from the confines of the two-party duopoly and encourages a diverse array of candidates to step forward, representing a broader spectrum of ideas and values.

Perhaps even more crucially, RCV nurtures a culture of constructive and respectful campaigning. In a system where every candidate must seek second and third-choice rankings to secure victory, negative tactics and divisive strategies lose their potency. RCV compels candidates to engage in substantive discussions, build bridges, and find common ground. By promoting unity and collaboration, RCV can restore our faith in politics and restore civility to the public sphere.

Moreover, ranked choice voting has the potential to rekindle the flame of civic engagement that has flickered in recent years. Too often, voters feel disenchanting and disconnected from a system that seems to offer limited choices. RCV changes this narrative. It empowers us to participate fully, to express our preferences honestly, and to have confidence that our votes truly count. When citizens feel valued and empowered, voter turnout soars, and our democracy thrives. Let us seize this opportunity to revitalize our civic spirit and ignite a renewed sense of citizenship.

Lastly, the implementation of ranked choice voting would bestow upon our elected officials a stronger mandate and greater legitimacy. By ensuring that winners secure a majority of votes, RCV ensures that our elected representatives truly represent the will of the people. This strengthens the bonds between the governed and the government, fostering trust and accountability. It is time for Oregon to be a beacon of democratic excellence, leading the way by embracing this vital electoral reform.

Honorable legislators, the decision before you carries profound consequences for our democracy. By adopting ranked choice voting, you have the power to forge a future where every voice is heard, where campaigns are based on shared values, and where voter participation flourishes. I implore you to seize this historic opportunity and champion the cause of democracy by implementing ranked choice voting in Oregon. Let us lead the way, setting an example for the nation to follow.

With utmost respect and optimism,

Lachlan Wilger