

Submitter: Joni Brewer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I am a resident of South Salem and I am also very active in voting method reform in Oregon. I am a volunteer petitioner of the STAR Voting initiative petition IP-11 which is currently gathering signatures in Oregon.

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on the ranked choice voting (RCV) bills 2004 and 3509 which I believe you will be voting on soon. While this may seem counterintuitive given my interest in voting method reform and more representative elections, the reasons are actually very simple:

- RCV is an outdated 150 year old voting method with known pathologies. Modern election science has invented much better methods since then.
- RCV gives some voters more power than others. Some people will have 2nd choices counted, others will not (even when the discarded ranking data is relevant!).
- RCV has been shown in academic studies to have similar benefits as regular voting with a top two runoff.
- RCV still has vote-splitting!
- RCV requires centralized tabulation, which decreases transparency and increases mistrust in the results.
- This RCV bill is a top-down approach which does not give voters a chance to decide if it is the reform they want.

Our STAR Voting for Oregon ballot initiative will give voters the chance in 2024 to choose a voting reform that solves all of these problems. I believe the RCV lobby is also circulating their own initiative, so voters could have the option to vote for that one if they want.

Please let voters make this choice.

Thanks,
Joni Brewer