

Submitter: Dan Keeley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

RE: Support HB 2004, Statewide Ranked Choice Voting,

Senate Committee on Rules
June 18, 2023

Hon. Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Dan Keeley and I live in Saint Paul, OR. I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004, a referral to the 2024 ballot that would establish ranked choice voting for statewide and federal elections.

I support this important legislation to give voters more nuanced input into our elections, to give elected candidates a reasonable mandate to govern (always over 50% of the vote) and to help move politics back to the moderate center from both the far left and far right. I currently fear for the unity of this state and nation. A recent and ominous example is the greater Idaho divorce movement. We need to move politics back toward the center and start listening to each other.

In our current elections, fear of “vote splitting” is affecting both voters and candidates: Candidates are often deterred from entering a race for fear of splitting voter support and voters are often forced to choose a candidate with a better chance of winning, instead of the candidate they actually prefer. As a result, many Oregonians – especially people of color, working-class people, rural residents, and young people – are less incentivized to participate in our elections. With over 70% of Oregon voters “extremely” or “very” discouraged by politics, we need a solution that will empower voters by giving them a real say in our elections.

I am not alone in my support of this bill. This legislation is supported by a coalition of over 35 organizations, including government organizations, Businesses, labor unions, environmental groups, rural communities and others.

Ranked choice voting is Oregon’s next step as a leader in election reform. Please support HB 2004, which will refer this critical piece of legislation to voters for the 2024 ballot.

Thank you,

Dan Keeley