

My name is Annie Kallen and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am the president of the Equal Vote Coalition which advocates for better voting methods that:

- a) **prevent vote-splitting**
- b) **provide an equally weighted vote, and**
- c) **allow all voters to have their next preferences counted if their first choice doesn't win.**

I am testifying today **against HB 2004**, because (as I was surprised to learn several years ago) **Ranked Choice Voting simply does not satisfy those very basic requirements.** Though I used to advocate for RCV, I have since discovered it is a trojan horse which **only hides vote-splitting** within a non-transparent tabulation mechanism. It does not prevent vote-splitting and it gives some voters more voting power than others.

RCV advocates say that ranking candidates is easy. This is very true. However, it is much harder to understand some of the complexities of the tabulation in RCV. For example, **ranking your favorite candidate first can actually help your least favorite candidate to win.** Additionally, if your favorite candidate doesn't win, **your vote might not transfer to your next preference.** In fact, this happens to a subset of voters in every RCV election.

But this doesn't mean we can't have a better voting method. Oregon has always been a leader in election reform. **That's why it's so exciting that we are leading the way with a citizen ballot initiative for STAR Voting**, a voting method invented here in Oregon which provides an equally weighted vote for all voters. In STAR Voting, if your favorite doesn't win, your vote still makes a difference. In other words, **STAR Voting fulfills all of the promises of RCV much better than RCV.**

Furthermore, STAR Voting is much easier to implement statewide than ranked choice voting. It can be tabulated by county. It adheres to the highest auditing standards. (In contrast, **HB 2004 would take tabulation powers away from the counties and give them to the Secretary of State.**)

I urge you to vote **no** on this RCV proposal. If you support improved voting methods, please consider endorsing STAR Voting for Oregon (IP-11) instead. We have already collected thousands of signatures and we're ready to make voting vastly better in this state.

You might also consider convening a task force to study the pros and cons of different voting methods before submitting one to the voters.

STAR Voting has been used by the Democratic Party of Oregon and the Independent Party of Oregon, and will soon be used by the Libertarian Party of Oregon. Importantly, STAR Voting for Oregon is a grassroots ballot initiative which truly represents the spirit and intentions of Oregonians.

Learn more:

www.Equal.vote

www.starvoting.org/star4or2024