

Submitter: Thomas George
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

June 19, 2023

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

My name is Thomas George and I live in Milwaukie. I want to voice my support for HB 2004, which would establish ranked choice voting in Oregon, for statewide and federal elections.

In many past elections I have felt obliged to abandon my preferred candidate, in order to prevent electing someone I could not condone. My ballot has become a disappointing game of “stop the bad guy,” and I know this is a universal experience across the state, in all parts of the political spectrum. Ranked choice voting would give me and all Oregon voters the best possible option: to vote for the candidate I truly support, without fearing an apocalypse I might cause in doing so. I’m confident this will increase voter engagement and approval. Ranked choice voting will be a balm to disenchantment, and will better enable our state and federal legislators to do the important work you’ve come to do.

I fear that the established parties will perceive ranked choice voting as a threat to their platforms, and I hope you’ll see that the opposite is true. Our status quo system inhibits a meaningful platform from any party. It will continue to polarize voters, and decrease the chance of thoughtful legislation being passed on any issue, however important. Ranked choice voting will make it easier, not harder, for you to tackle the issues that inspired you to run for office.

I urge you to pass HB 2004 out of committee, and refer this important bill to voters for the 2024 ballot.

Thank you,
Thomas George