

Submitter: Alan Zundel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I am not opposed to ranked choice voting generally, but I am very opposed to this bill.

It transfers voting tabulation from the county clerks to the Secretary of State for the most important offices in the state: federal and statewide elected offices. With RCV vote tabulation needs to be centralized, which may require transporting the actual physical ballots from across the state to one location. Imagine how many voters, already suspicious of partisan election tampering, would become even more suspicious when an elected official in a partisan office is given physical custody of ballots and does the tabulation in a central location--especially given that if an RCV election goes into multiple rounds of counting it will be confusing for some voters to understand how the results were arrived at. If this is referred to the ballot and passes by a narrow and partisan vote it will certainly make partisan divisions in the state flare even wider and hotter than they do now.

This bill is not ready for prime time. Let RCV supporters gather signatures for an initiative to demonstrate whether voters are ready for this to appear on the ballot or not. Please don't rush ahead without a more thoughtful approach to the best way to approve our voting methods in Oregon.

Alan Zundel, PhD in political science