

Submitter: Philip Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

We strongly encourage anyone who can attend the public hearing in person, and is willing to voice their concerns directly to the committee, to please do so. It is very important that this bill is not implemented in Oregon.

Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) – HB2004

Bill Summary - Establishes ranked choice voting as voting method for selecting winner of nomination for and election to offices of President of United States, United States Senator, Representative in Congress, Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and Attorney General. Authorizes cities, counties, metropolitan service districts and local government and local service districts to elect to use ranked choice voting to nominate or elect candidates for relevant offices. Moves election for Commissioner of Bureau of Labor and Industries to general election, where election is conducted using ranked choice voting.

WE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL - This bill ELIMINATES ONE VOTE PER CITIZEN by authorizing cities, counties, metropolitan service districts and local government and local service districts to elect to use ranked-choice voting to nominate or elect candidates for relevant offices. Under ranked-choice voting, voters rank candidates in order of preference. If no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes in the first round of voting, the last-place finisher is eliminated, and his votes are reallocated to the voter's second-choice candidate. This process continues until one candidate receives a majority of votes.

RCV is messy and ends up not representing the will of the people. Also, the change to an RCV system is highly expensive and that expense will undoubtedly be passed on to Oregonians as another tax. Further, the Oregon AG has openly admitted that the current electronic voting systems are hackable. Why add more electronic systems that are hackable and have no clear structure or process for forensic auditing? After All, they couldn't keep our DMV information from recently being hacked, so how can they possibly believe that a ranked electronic voting system will be safe and transparent? How can we trust them to manage a new system that is as complicated and confusing as the proposed RCV voting structure?