

Submitter: Richard Fobes  
On Behalf Of: The VoteFair guy  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

My name is Richard Fobes. I'm the VoteFair guy.

Three decades ago, while living in Corvallis, I wrote a book titled "The Creative Problem Solver's Toolbox," which notably has been published around the world in ten languages.

While writing it I realized that most of the big problems that governments face could be solved easily if we used a well-designed vote-counting system.

House Bill 2004 is very well designed within the limits of already-certified software.

The people who criticize the counting details in this bill are not telling you that their criticisms will become irrelevant when better, officially certified, election software becomes available. That better software will use pairwise vote counting, and will correctly count two marks in the same choice column.

Most of the other people who strongly oppose ranked choice voting are business owners who give the biggest campaign contributions to you, our elected representatives. Those people fear losing their control over you.

Currently those biggest campaign contributors exploit the divide-and-conquer tactic called "vote splitting." That's the tactic Phil Knight used, almost successfully, in our recent gubernatorial election.

This election vulnerability in primary elections accounts for why you often have to vote in favor of flawed laws. If you disappoint your biggest campaign contributors, then your next primary election might include a spoiler candidate who is chosen to split votes away from you. That tactic makes it easier for a replacement politician to win your party's nomination.

We, the voters of both parties, want you to be free to represent us, the majority of voters in both parties. Then you will be free to oppose the money-extraction tactics that take extra money out of our wallets.

If you can imagine one of your biggest campaign contributors defending one of their favorite money-extraction tactics, please remind them that the result is that we, as Oregonians, have less money to buy what other Oregon businesses sell.

I have a dream that Oregon's prosperity can rise above our currently excessive reliance on money spilling over from California and Washington. Election-method reform is the first step toward making that transformation a reality.

If you want more details please look at the webpage I've written titled "Why A Better Vote-Counting System Will Yield Widespread Economic Prosperity" It's at: [votefair.org/taker\\_tactics.html](http://votefair.org/taker_tactics.html)

Please remember that widespread economic prosperity will reduce problems such as healthcare limitations, underpaid essential workers, unaffordable housing, homelessness, some aspects of drug abuse, and many crimes that are fueled by anger and depression.

Let's transform Oregon into a showcase for the strong economy that Oregon will achieve after we adopt a higher level of democracy.

Please put this reform on the 2024 ballot so that we, the voters, can pass it into law and gain the economic benefits of this wisely designed reform.

Richard Fobes

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