

Submitter: Ed Doyle
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

RE: Support HB 2004, Statewide Ranked Choice Voting,
Senate Committee on Rules
06/21/2023

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

My name is Ed Doyle and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon. I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004, a referral to the 2024 ballot that would establish ranked choice voting for statewide and federal elections.

In our current elections, fear of “vote splitting” is affecting both voters and candidates: Candidates are often deterred from entering a race for fear of splitting voter support and voters are often forced to choose a candidate with a better chance of winning, instead of the candidate they prefer. As a result, many Oregonians –especially people of color, working-class people, rural residents, and young people – are less incentivized to participate in our elections. With over 70% of Oregon voters “extremely” or “very” discouraged by politics, we need a solution that will empower voters by giving them a real say in our elections.

Our democracy is dying: An SOS for Oregon

Darkness has fallen across Oregon’s democracy.

- Citizens in 12 Oregon counties have voted to essentially revoke their consent to be governed by the State, seeking Idaho instead.
- State Senators from both parties refuse to convene, effectively ending critical legislative business, and imperiling the state budget.
- The Secretary of State resigned amid a corruption scandal.
- The Department of Justice is conducting a criminal investigation into fraudulent campaign contributions relating to false reporting by the state’s Democratic Party.
- Oregon’s criminal justice courts routinely deny sixth amendment rights, a constitutional crisis and an urgent threat to public safety.

Extreme party politics have derailed the public-sector at a critical juncture. The officials who pander to the fierce fringe have refused to work in service to the people of Oregon.

There are antidotes to absurdity. We can restore democracy with real reforms like RCV that truly put Oregon voters first. Accountability matters.

I am not alone in my support of this bill. This legislation is supported by a coalition of over 35 organizations, including culturally-specific organizations, labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, youth-empowering organizations, and good government groups.

Ranked choice voting is Oregon's next step as a leader in election reform. Please support HB 2004, which will refer this critical piece of legislation to voters for the 2024 ballot, and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

Ed Doyle
Oregon Registered Voter