

Submitter: Erik Walthinsen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I am writing in support of HB 2004 that would refer the question of ranked-choice voting to the 2024 ballot. I've casually studied voting systems for decades and while ranked-choice may not be the mathematically best option, it is understandable by most people, eminently practical implement, and meets most commonly-accepted criteria for properly representative voting systems. In comparison, our basic majority voting system combined with per-party primaries, and at a federal level the electoral college, literally ranks as the worse possible approach in almost every metric there is.

Personally, I'm tired of being forced to vote "strategically" - voting for one party's candidate for the sole reason that the other party's candidate is worse. Every Oregonian should be able to vote their *actual* preference and have it count, rather than be "wasted". The current system is well-known to cause a race to the extremes, and these extremes are literally tearing the country apart. RCV and other systems give us a chance to mediate the extremes and bring some level of reason back to the political system.

Please vote HB 2004 onto the 2024 ballot. The future of this state and country depends on enacting these major changes.