

RE: Support HB 2004, Statewide Ranked Choice Voting,
Senate Committee on Rules

June 21, 2023

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

My name is Michael Hughes and I live in Salem. 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.

I have experienced the fear of “vote splitting” and seen it result in winners who were less than ideal but had the backing of party influencers.

As a result, many Oregonians 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.

In my 58 years of voting there have been dozens of times when I wished I had more choice than simply voting for the lesser of two evils that the parties had determined were my only choices. Or, sometimes, there were 2 or 3 people who I felt would be suitable choices but could only vote for one of them.

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,

Michael P. Hughes
935 Barkstone Ct. SE
Salem, OR