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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

1. RCV disenfranchises those who vote for fewer candidates than the number of rounds of counting. If five candidates run, but the voter ranks only two and these are eliminated in the first two rounds, their ballot doesn't count in the final tally of votes.
2. RCV eliminates voter choices between two top-tier candidates, as a run-off would.
3. Voting is difficult to trace: Computer algorithms decide who won an election which means it is nearly impossible to go back and verify ballots afterwards.
4. The complexity of the strategy required to support a voter's favorite candidate will discourage voters from participating.
5. RCV favors incumbents and those with name recognition, thereby reducing competitiveness of fresh faces and candidates supporting change.
6. Implementation of RCV would require large expenditures by the state and counties at a time when other more serious problems require investing taxpayer dollars instead.
7. Oregon's AG has admitted that the current electronic voting system can be hacked. With a difficult to trace computer algorithm deciding the election, RCV is certain to create nightmares for forensic auditors and to undermine voter confidence in our election system when it is already at historic lows.
8. Strategic voting and vote-splitting allow RCV systems to be manipulated by political strategists. Voters can rank candidates in a way that prevents a less-favored candidate from advancing rather than ranking them according to the voter's true preference. This strategy can also be used to target less informed voters or those more easily confused by the system.
9. Many disadvantaged Oregonians, including the elderly, the less-educated, and some members of the minority community, will be disenfranchised by a system that is complex, strategic, and easily manipulated. Some could fall prey to manipulation of those attempting to use their votes; others would simply not vote because the system is too complex for them to understand.
10. Voters with limited knowledge of a few candidates may find that their vote doesn't count at all because they have failed to vote for candidates that make it through initial

rounds of counting or for candidates with similar values to their top choice.

11. RCV has the potential to solidify the 2-party system and to eliminate minority parties and voters.