

To Whom It May Concern:

It used to be, through the history of this country, that democracy meant a small few controlling the country. Only voices of very few people mattered.

As time went on more and more people gained the power to use their voice and their vote to change our nation. It went from some wealthy white men to almost all wealthy white men; then, suffrage went to almost all white men. Finally, it was granted and allowed to almost all men. After more hard won victories, almost everyone had a voice.

Today, we are losing the hard won empowerment that our predecessors fought and died for. It would mean everything then, for Oregon to be a shining light. For Oregon to turn the other way and say, "No. Not only will we keep our voters enfranchised, we will make our society more democratic. No longer will we force our people to make choices based on who can win, but on who we think makes the most sense, who can lead our communities the best."

Ranked choice voting is the only way to obliterate the two party oligopoly. Our first past the post system breeds corruption and injustice. Additionally, it breeds voter apathy. People don't want to vote when they dislike or disagree with the only two candidates who are able to win the election. however, with a first past the post system, that is the inevitable outcome: two parties, each serving only the party they belong to, not the people who voted them into office. A vote for anything else is a wasted vote.

Please use this chance to continue our nation's tradition of making our society more and more democratic.

Best Regards,

Raechell Hurtado de Mendoza