

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

March 10, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Kirk Schueler and I live in Bend, Oregon. I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004, which will establish ranked choice voting statewide and help ensure all Oregonians are represented in our democracy.

In our current elections, candidates in crowded races are consistently winning with less than a majority. Over half of statewide and federal races with more than two candidates won with narrow support in Oregon's 2020 and 2022 primaries¹, leaving voters feeling like their vote didn't count and unable to fully express their preferences. Fear of splitting the vote creates barriers for candidates to run and leads to voter cynicism. It's clear that our elections aren't serving voters or candidates as best as they could. Ranked choice voting is a simple improvement to our elections that will lead to more reflective elected bodies for Oregonians from every community.

I believe that our current election system is at the heart of the threat to our democracy. The duopoly held by our two party system, coupled with the prevalence of gerrymandering the election maps, leaves many voters without a voice. Ranked choice voting offers the opportunity for a majority of voters to elect their representatives. I would think that elected officials would want to know that they were supported by a majority of voters in their district, county, state, and nation.

I am not alone in my support of this bill. This legislation is supported by a coalition of over 30 organizations, including culturally-specific organizations, labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, youth-empowering organizations, and good government groups.

Ranked choice voting is a proven solution and Oregon's next step as a leader in election reform. Please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,



Kirk Schueler
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¹ Oregon Secretary of State, [State of Oregon Elections: Election History](#)