

Submitter: Barry Pederson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004, which will establish ranked choice voting (RCV) statewide and help ensure all Oregonians are represented in our democracy.

Overall, the electoral system in our county is horribly broken, and RCV seems like a good first step in giving voters a real voice. No more "strategic voting" of having to pick the least-worst candidate who seems to have a shot at winning, and no more fear of "vote-splitting"

Our recent 2022 3-way governor race showed the need for something better than first-past-the-post voting, where conceivably a candidate could win with as little as 1/3rd (+1) of cast ballots, and maybe 2/3rds of the votes against that person. A situation like that would probably lead to 4 years of political turmoil. With RCV the desires of the voters would be clearer and whoever won could honestly claim to have some measure of support from a majority of the electorate.

Maine and Alaska have led the way in changing things for the better by adopting statewide Ranked Choice Voting, I hope Oregon can soon follow suit.

Please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.