

RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004
House Committee on Rules
3/11/2023

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

My name is Rick Metz and I live in Lake Oswego. 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.

Giving voters the ability to rank their choices would allow us to potentially start having elected officials that exceed 50% of the vote while also limiting the constant bickering and attack based politics. These approaches have proven more over the last number of years that they are dividing us more than ever and our current process doesn't help address this. My hope is that Ranked Choice voting will be a strong step in the right direction.

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,

Rick Metz

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