

Submitter: Cooper Morrow
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004
House Committee on Rules
February 28, 2023

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

My name is Cooper Morrow and I live in Portland. 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.

In our current elections, candidates in crowded races are consistently winning with less than a majority. Over half of the statewide and federal races with more than two candidates won with narrow support in Oregon's 2020 and 2022 primaries, 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 have been following RCV for a few years now and see its benefits already in Alaska and elsewhere. As disparate echo chambers polarize our country more each year, I look to RCV as a way to bring us back together and allow politicians to focus more on what we have in common. I feel strongly that changes to or elimination of primaries along with implementing RCV across Oregon will help cut down on the vitriol and improve our elections.

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,

Cooper Morrow