

Submitter: Wayne Manselle  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004  
House Committee on Rules  
2023.03.12

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

My name is Wayne Manselle and I live in Harrisburg. 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 the current first-past-the-post model of elections, a form of electionary game theory ultimately harms the democratic experiment for all participants. In order to achieve at least some of their policy aims, voters may feel pressured to cast their ballot for candidates that they feel are the most likely to win heavily contested elections. Similarly, political parties can feel pressured to put support behind the most extreme candidates with the best chances of motivating turnout. In either case, this leads to an ever widening gulf in our politics.

By transitioning to a ranked choice voting system, some of that pressure will be removed and ideas will be given more room to breathe. Voters will have an invaluable option to weigh their political choices and cast their vote freely, knowing it won't simply be cast away should the candidates they want to support be considered politically non-viable under a first-past-the-post model. Politicians could also be more open in their positions and how they run, knowing that their potential voters would be that much more free to vote for them.

Ranked choice voting's success in Alaska and Maine shows it to be a proven solution, and one that stands a chance to breathe life and health into Democratic discourse for years to come. By adopting it, Oregon will continue to be an example to the rest of the nation of well run elections. Please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

Wayne Manselle