

Submitter: Kelley Albrecht
On Behalf Of:
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Measure: HB2004

Oregon leads the nation in maximizing the democratic process of voting. Vote-by-mail and automatic voter registration ensure that every voter is registered, and can vote in their own time from the comfort of their own home. We deserve to be commended for these steps, but there is still progress that must be made. Ranked-choice voting is that next step.

The largest group of voters in Oregon is the unaffiliated, yet every election cycle, the vote comes down to the best-funded candidate from the Democratic and Republican Parties. Voters feel trapped in voting for the "lesser of two evils," rather than their ideal candidate. This is undemocratic in limiting and even determining the choice Oregonians have on the ballot, while voters will always question whether the money behind these candidates affects their votes.

Ranked-choice voting enables Oregonians to choose the candidate that they believe would best represent them, while ensuring that if that candidate does not win, their vote can still count. This will eliminate the troubling trend of voting AGAINST a candidate rather than FOR one. Alaska's ranked-choice voting has been a success, and voters there express their happiness with the system. Oregon must continue to lead the country on democratic voter reforms by passing ranked-choice voting.

Thank you,
Kelley Albrecht
Oregon Voter