



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 16 2023

To: Chair Representative Julie Fahey, [House Committee on Rules](#)

Re: [HB 2004](#) – Relating to ranked choice voting (RCV) – **Support**

For over 100 years, the League of Women Voters (LWV) has followed a mission to educate and serve voters. Nonpartisan at all levels (national, state and local), the LWV supports electoral systems producing the greatest level of representation. It is that goal that entreats our support of HB 2004, establishing statewide ranked choice voting (RCV).

In Oregon, the LWVOR began studying RCV prior to 2008. In 2016 we conducted a second in-depth two-year [study](#), and most recently, in 2023, we have completed an [update](#) to this work that compares RCV to other alternative systems. The Oregon League position clearly offers the basis for our support of HB 2004, as it states: “[F]or single-winner systems, the League supports ranked-choice voting...” (For multi-seat, or at-large, elections our position supports several systems, including RCV.)

We believe HB 2004 would serve Oregon voters by requiring voter education and in several other ways.

1. Give voters a sense that their voice matters more, allowing them to express additional choices.
2. Based on its use in other jurisdictions, RCV demonstrates often curtailing negative campaigning.
3. RCV avoids “vote splitting” in which voters feel they might waste their vote if they choose their favorite candidate. Additionally, this protects candidates from being labeled “spoilers.”
4. RCV supports the highest voter representation level, for single or multi-winner elections.

We advocate for these results based on several criteria included in our LWV Oregon [position](#) on Election Methods. Specifically, those benefits supported by HB 2004 include:

- Encouraging voter participation and voter engagement.
- Encouraging those with minority opinions to participate.
- Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.
- Discourage negative campaigning.

We would like to see an amendment to this bill that includes the implementation of RCV for school boards, as may have been implied in the Oregon Voting Rights Act (HB 3310) in 2019. Additionally, while we understand that the “perfect should not be the enemy of the good,” we voice our disappointment that HB 2004 does not include the Oregon legislature.

The LWV believes that our electoral system and protection of the vote is important to Oregon voters, to collaborative government, and to democratic system preservation. We urge your support of HB 2004.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our position and strong support for this legislation.

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CC: House Chief Sponsors, Representatives [Dan Rayfield](#), [Pam Marsh](#), [Lisa Reynolds](#)