

Submitter: k davis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3509

I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 3509, which will establish ranked choice voting statewide and help ensure all Oregonians are finally fairly 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 primaries, leaving voters feeling like their vote didn't count. Campaigning has become a high stakes effort to raise funds, rather than earning votes based on the critical issues we face. 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 effectively. Ranked choice voting is a simple improvement to our elections that will lead to more reflective elected bodies for Oregonians from every community. So many of us are sick and tired of seeing races bought by financial interests. This legislation is supported by people and 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.