



March 16, 2023

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

Re: House Bill 2004 – Support, Ranked Choice Voting

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Kropf, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is William Miller (Blackfeet/ Cherokee) and I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director of the NAYA Action Fund located in Portland. Founded by the community, for the community, the NAYA Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization with a mission to expand political advocacy and build electoral power in partnership with the Native community in Oregon and Washington. Our vision of systemic change is youth centered, family driven, and elder guided. I write in support of House Bill 2004, establishing Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in Oregon.

HB 2004 would create several positive opportunities for Oregon’s electoral process. First, it would increase voter turnout, as RCV encourages voters to participate in elections and gives voters more choice and control over their vote. Second, it would eliminate the issue of *spoiler candidates*, where a third-party candidate pulls votes away from a major candidate and causes them to lose the election. RCV allows voters to express their true preferences without fear of throwing their vote away, while promoting more positive campaigning and allowing for reductions in negative attacks. This can lead to more civil and constructive campaigning and debates that focus on the issues which are important to voters.

Additionally, our current electoral system discourages candidates of color, specifically, from running for offices in crowded races. With RCV Elections, candidates who look alike, come from similar backgrounds, or share similar ideologies don’t split community support because voters can have their vote count for multiple candidates, and like-minded candidates benefit from sharing voter support. This leads to more reflective representation on the ballot for voters and more candidates able to run on issue-driven platforms. RCV puts more power in the hands of voters and creates elected bodies that are more reflective of the people they represent.

NAYA Action Fund works in community to secure protections, provide opportunities, and increase the advancement of those most impacted by policy. This session, we hope you join us in providing opportunities for voter access and equity throughout our elections system. It’s with this in mind that I write on behalf of the NAYA Action Fund, urging the passage of HB 2004.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Miller", is written over a light blue circular background.

William Miller  
Executive Director