

March 15, 2023

To: House Committee on Rules, Representative Julie Fahey, Chair; Representatives Vikki Breese-Iverson and Jason Kropf, Vice-Chairs

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2004, Relating to Rank Choice Voting

I support HB 2004 because I believe it is a fairer and more effective way for voters to voice their choices among candidates for public office. I will cite three reasons for that statement.

- 1) RCV reduces or perhaps even eliminates the potential impact of outcome manipulation via the political practice of “spoiler candidates.” This will not solve the far bigger problem of “big money” influence in elections, but it may limit at least one avenue for its exercise.
- 2) RCV provides a strong disincentive for negative campaigning, including in this tragically high politically divisive environment we face in these times. We ignore at the peril of democracy the potential harm to the democratic system that flows from voters becoming “turned off” to voting at all because ugly campaign behavior and practices are so abhorrent. On the contrary, RCV by its very process, allows people leeway to use their vote to voice their choice, enhancing their motivation to become educated and cast their votes in order of preference.
- 3) Results in jurisdictions where RCV has been implemented appear to demonstrate that the practice results in more diversity, as women, people of color, working class people, young people, and members of other underrepresented groups are able to win.

I urge your support for HB 2004. Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

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