



community alliance of tenants

RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004
House Committee on Rules

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

March 14, 2023

My name is Alexis Ames, and I am with the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT). Cat's mission is to educate and empower tenants in our statewide membership. On behalf of CAT, I am writing to testify in strong support of HB 2004, which will implement ranked-choice voting on a state-wide basis and ensure that all Oregonians are reflected in our democracy.

Candidates in crowded races regularly prevail in our current elections with less than a majority of the vote. By allowing voters to rank candidates, rank choice voting can help to overcome vote splitting, which often benefits the candidate with the most financial resources or political influence. This means tenants can vote for the candidate they genuinely support without worrying about their vote being wasted.

Tenants often face challenges in the political process, such as limited access to information, resources, and time. They may also be more likely to experience voter suppression tactics or face barriers to participating in elections. Ranked choice voting can address some of these challenges by empowering tenants to have a stronger voice in the political process.

Additionally, rank-choice voting can encourage more candidates to run for office and offer voters diverse choices. This can increase the chances of our diverse membership having candidates who represent their interests and concerns. As well as promote greater inclusivity and representation of the growing diversity in Oregon.

In closing, HB 2004 will work towards creating a more equitable voting process for all Oregonians, including those who may have traditionally been marginalized or excluded from the political process. We ask you to support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

Alexis Ames (She/Her)
Southern Oregon Regional Organizer
Community Alliance of Tenants