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To: Chair Julie Fahey
           Vice-Chair Vikki Breese-Iverson
           Vice-Chair Jason Kropf
           Members of the House Committee on Rules

From: Corvallis City Legislative Committee

Date: March 13, 2023

Subject: Support for HB 2004

Chair Fahey and members of the Rules Committee. The Corvallis City Legislative Committee, a body consisting of the Corvallis Mayor and four City Councilors, would like to register its support of HB 2004 and of ranked choice voting (RCV) as a whole.

I will let others speak to how RCV promotes positive campaigning, how it advances consensus candidates, and how it allows for people to run on their true convictions rather than be boxed in or forced out of parties and races. Instead, I will briefly lay out the timeline of how RCV has become the method of choice for electing officials in Benton County.

2016
In November 2016, Benton County voters adopt Measure 2-100 which amends the Benton County Charter to elect county-wide officials by RCV.

2020
In November 2020, after receiving funding from the state for implementation, two Benton County Commission races, each with three candidates, are conducted using ranked choice voting. In both races, a candidate received more than 50% of the vote in the first round of voting. (Visit https://bentonbetterballot.com/ to see how RCV is tabulated and to use a practice ballot)

2022
In early 2022, the City of Corvallis adopted RCV as the method of electing the city's mayor and city councilors. Between the adoption of RCV and the November 2022 election, the City of Corvallis conducted extensive outreach to inform voters of the benefits of RCV.

In November 2022, Mayor Charles Maughan and Councilor Tony Cadena were elected to vacant seats, winning by way of RCV. Neither candidate received over 50% of the vote in the first round so both elections went to a second round of voting. This allowed voters whose first-choice candidate placed last, to still have a voice in the election of their official with their second-choice vote.

The people of Corvallis voted in favor of ranked choice voting in 2016 and continue to support this improved voting method. Ranked choice voting has worked in Corvallis and it can work in Oregon as a whole.

The Corvallis City Legislative Committee urges the state legislature to pass HB 2004 and enact ranked choice voting as the method of choice for state and federal races.

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Gabe Shepherd
Corvallis City Legislative Committee, Chair
Corvallis City Councilor, Ward 4

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