

Submitter: Felicity Montebianco  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004  
House Committee on Rules  
March 15, 2023

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

My name is Felicity Montebianco and I live in Aloha (unincorporated Washington County). I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004, which will establish ranked choice voting (RCV) statewide and help ensure all Oregonians are 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 and unable to fully express their preferences. 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 or candidates as best as they could. Ranked choice voting is a simple improvement to our elections that will lead to more reflective elected bodies for Oregonians from every community.

I serve as a local elected in Washington County. Elections are tough, no matter the race, no matter your political party. RCV would ensure a more positive experience for candidates who take the brave step to run in the first place. With RCV, candidates would be encouraged to work more collaboratively and no candidate would need to sit out for fear of splitting the vote—both of which the voters would benefit from tremendously. Even negative attack ads from opposing candidates could become a practice of the past, I certainly don't love to see those in my mailbox nor do I find them persuading.

I am not alone in my support of this bill. This legislation is supported by a coalition of over 35 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. Please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,  
Felicitia Montebianco  
she/her  
Aloha, Oregon