

Submitter: clay shentrup
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3509

To the Oregon House Committee on Rules,

My name is Clay Shentrup, and I am a resident of Portland, Oregon. I am writing to express my support for STAR Voting and to voice my concerns about the efforts to implement Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) through House Bill 3509.

First, I want to highlight the innovative voting method, STAR Voting, which was developed right here in Oregon. STAR Voting addresses the shortcomings of RCV by ensuring that every vote is counted in the final round and allowing for more flexible ballots by accepting equal rankings. This system is more efficient, less prone to errors, and better equipped to accommodate Oregon's current election security measures, local tabulation, and auditing protocols.

In contrast, RCV has a history of failing to deliver on its promises. Numerous instances of miscounted votes and errors have been reported in RCV elections, such as the 2021 New York City Democratic Mayoral Primary and the November 2022 election in Alameda County, California. These errors could have been avoided if STAR Voting were used instead.

Moreover, RCV's complex balloting and tabulation process disproportionately disenfranchises lower-income voters and minority voters. It's essential that we choose a voting system that promotes inclusivity and ensures that every vote counts.

Furthermore, RCV does not eliminate vote-splitting, a core driver of polarization and the two-party domination of our current system. In contrast, STAR Voting effectively eliminates vote-splitting by counting all ballot data.

Lastly, RCV has been promoted with false claims, and its failure to deliver on these promises has led to resentment and backlash from voters. It's crucial that we select a voting method that can withstand scrutiny and deliver on its promises.

In conclusion, I urge the Oregon House Committee on Rules to consider the benefits of STAR Voting and the potential risks associated with implementing RCV. Oregonians need a voting system that is efficient, inclusive, and transparent. STAR Voting offers a more robust solution designed to solve the problems that RCV fails to address.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Clay Shentrup
Portland, Oregon