

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

**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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

My name is Josh Laurente with OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, and I write in full support of Statewide Ranked Choice Voting (HB 2004). At OPAL, we empower the most environmentally burdened communities to champion their vision of a more equitable and just Oregon through civic engagement, leadership development, and issue advocacy. We are a proud member of a broad coalition of over 35 organizations, including culturally-specific organizations, labor unions, other environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, youth-empowering organizations, as well as good government groups. I am writing to testify in strong support of HB 2004, which will establish ranked choice voting 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<sup>1</sup>, leaving voters feeling like their vote didn't count and unable to fully express their preferences.

Ranked Choice Voting enhances the ability of environmentally burdened communities to protect their health, wealth, and safety by voting for multiple values-aligned candidates. By allowing voters to rank candidates, their vote becomes more meaningful, has greater impact, and, ultimately, leads to electoral results that restore faith in the democratic process. In exit polls across multiple jurisdictions that use ranked choice voting, on average, 73% of voters prefer it to our current system.<sup>2</sup> In ranked choice voting elections, candidates must compete for all votes, ensuring they have broad support and are truly listening to issues that are important to voters.

Ranked choice voting is a proven solution and Oregon's next step as a leader in election reform. As a representative of **OPAL Environmental Justice**, and in solidarity with and service to the communities whose voices we amplify, we ask that you please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Saina ma'āse and good vibes,

Josh Laurente (he/him)  
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon



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<sup>1</sup> Oregon Secretary of State, [State of Oregon Elections: Election History](#)

<sup>2</sup> FairVote, [Exit Surveys: Voters Evaluate Ranked Choice Voting After First Use](#)