

Submitter: Margie Trifari  
On Behalf Of: RepresentUs Oregon  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

March 16, 2023  
From Margie Trifari  
RepresentUs Oregon  
Registered voter  
Albany, Oregon  
approval of HB 2004

To:  
Rules Committee:

First, I commend you all for your Service to Oregon. I know that it must be something nobler than the modest salary that motivates you to be a legislator, and it is appreciated.

Chairman: Representative Fahey; Vice chairs: Representatives Breese-Iverson and Jason Kropf; and  
Members: Representative Nosse, Representative Scharf, Representative Valderrama, and Representative Wallan.

I do not vote in any of your districts, but I trust that the voters who have chosen you, did so, with the expectation that you consider their common interests as a priority. I think it is fair to say that how we vote qualifies as a common interest for all Oregon Voters.

I think our voting system is due for a significant update. Plurality voting may have been reasonably effective when the bulk of voters belonged to one of the 2 major parties, but that is no longer the case, particularly here in Oregon when more than 40% of registered voters are either unaffiliated or members of minor parties. Approval ratings for elected officials often fall under 50%. Plurality voting seems, more often than not, to fail voters.

We need to make the primary elections available, not just for Republicans and Democrats, but for all registered voters, to vote for their best option, not just a favorite major party candidate. That will require a voting method that can accommodate multiple candidates from all parties. Plurality voting is woefully unable to handle more than 2.

Ranked Choice Voting is the answer to all of this. Changes are inevitable.

In 2022 The Oregon Legislature introduced 275 bills, memorials, and resolutions, passing 129, and appropriately referring 4 measures to the ballot. As a voter, I don't know what any of the 129 you passed was about, and I thank you for that. Most things we want you to decide and we must trust you.

Plurality voting or Ranked Choice Voting ... Oregon voters hold their right to vote effectively as sacred.

The decision of how we vote belongs to voters, not to legislators.

Please vote to move HB 2004, relating to Ranked Choice Voting, through the legislative channels, and onto the 2024 ballot, so the people of Oregon can decide if this is the fix for them. It is not your decision. It is ours.

Thank you, esteemed committee members.

Margie Trifari