

Submitter: John McDonnell
Committee: House Committee on Rules
Bill: HB2004, Statewide Ranked Choice Voting
Position: Oppose

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Kropf, and members of the committee.

The very concept of ranked choice voting is terrifying. It skews the will of the people by allowing those that do not represent the majority to rise to the top, based on votes for the candidates with the least amount of support.

Ranked choice voting is complicated, confusing, and disenfranchises voters when the candidate with the most votes does not win. It is neither fair nor equitable. It's similar to gaming the system and hoping others don't catch on to what is happening. Campaigns are important to the process of understanding a candidates core beliefs. Eliminating primaries adds complication and stifles in depth study of how a candidate will actually perform in office.

Some worry about splitting the vote when an independent is added to the election. These decisions are a part of critical thinking and are necessary when determining not only the issues, but how, and if that message can be brought to action after the election.

Our most recent election resulted in a governor with only 46% of the vote. If people are looking for an equitable alternative for when the winner does not achieve a majority, one possibility would be to have a runoff.

Representatives, our form of government is unique in the world. Maintaining this unique form of representation takes real work and effort, and it should. In order to fulfill our obligation as citizens, it's necessary for us to study issues, candidates, and long term consequences of our vote. It should not be trivialized by taking decisions away from the voter.

I urge you to reject House Bill 2004.