

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

Oregon AFSCME represents over 33,000 public workers and is part of a broad coalition of over 35 organizations, including culturally-specific organizations, labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, youth-empowering organizations, and good government groups. We are 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. 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.

Our current system does not allow for every voter to express their true values. We must ensure that voters can choose the candidates they truly believe in instead of the one who is most likely to win. Ranked choice voting is easy to use and understand and results in voters feeling more satisfied with their choices.

Oregonians have already expressed their preference for ranked choice voting. In November, 95% of Corvallis residents used ranked choice voting in a three-way mayoral race as well as larger Benton County adopting it as well. Portland and Multnomah County voters also overwhelmingly approved of adopting ranked choice voting this past November.

Local jurisdictions are already adopting ranked choice voting, and we must progress to adopting it statewide. Not only will this follow the will of the people, but it will provide resources for local jurisdictions to be successful and have full integrity in their elections.

HB 2004 will help create standardized, multilingual and culturally responsive voter education tools and resources. Ranked choice voting is a proven solution and Oregon's next step as a leader in election reform. Oregon AFSCME strongly supports HB 2004 and urges the support of passing it out of committee.

Thank you.

