

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

Chair Fahey and members of the Committee,

My name is Terrance Carroll and I am the former Speaker of the Colorado House and blessed to say I was the first African-American and today, the only African-American, to have served in that role in the state of Colorado. I'm also an attorney who has practiced in election law and voting rights and am currently a Senior Fellow at the Washington D.C. based, FairVote. FairVote is a leading nonpartisan, national organization that works on electoral reform and democracy reform and is considered one of the leaders in the ranked choice voting movement.

You've likely read about the many benefits of ranked choice voting: more choice for voters, promoting more positive campaigns, etc. One of the things I want to share about why I support ranked choice voting is how it benefits expanding options for women, people of color, and other marginalized groups that our traditional "first-past-the-post" voting system often writes out of the equation. One of the beauties of ranked choice allows for multiple women, multiple candidates of color to run and have the same opportunity to be successful without having to worry about voting strategically. We've seen that in places where ranked choice voting has been implemented, more women and people of color have been elected to office. For instance, in Minneapolis had the majority of their council being people of color, after they first used rank choice voting. In New York City, after adopting ranked choice voting in June 2021, voters elected their second African American mayor, Mayor Eric Adams, and elected their first city council that was majority women and their first city council that was majority people of color. I think that's outstanding, that we can actually see more folks of color and more women being elected to office especially in our multicultural, multi-ethnic democracy.

In New York City, one of the largest places where we've seen rank choice voting implemented and arguably the most diverse city in the United States of America, FairVote conducted exit polling to see if race, age, ethnicity, etc. contributed to not understanding rank choice voting. We found that 78% of voters across all racial groups understood rank choice voting and that there was no marked discrepancy between races or across age groups. Just 78% of people understood it.

In a 2021 study from FairVote, we found that voters of color, especially African American voters, were more apt to rank more than one candidate, in fact, to use all their rankings at one time. Also, in New York City, 78% of voters felt that they understood rank choice voting very well. And 77% of those same voters said that they would like to

see rank choice voting used and future elections. So when it's used, people like to use it, they want to use it, they want to use it again.  
I think that it's very clear that rank choice voting is the future and I urge you to adopt HB 2004.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signed,  
Terrance Carroll