

Submitter: Carolyn Richards  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004  
House Committee on Rules  
3/18/23

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

My name is Carolyn and I live in Portland. I am writing to testify in strong support for 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.

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. Ranked choice voting is a simple improvement to our elections that will lead to more reflective elected bodies for Oregonians from every community.

As a constituent and voter, I've watched our candidates become more polarized and the vote ends up being a decision who is more likely to win. This is particularly true in primary elections. I want my voice and vote, along with everyone else's, to represent our own choices. Ranked choice voting by way of HB 2004 gives voters more voice and more meaningful choices, and ultimately results in a more representative elected body.

I am not alone in my support of this bill. This legislation is supported by a coalition of over 35 organizations, including culturally-specific organizations, labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, youth-empowering organizations, and good government groups.

Ranked choice voting is a proven solution and Oregon's next step as a leader in election reform. Please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,  
Carolyn Richards  
she/her

[1] Oregon Secretary of State, State of Oregon Elections: Election History