

Submitter: Sean Dandrea
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I am writing from Somerville Massachusetts because this upcoming vote is poised to kill STAR voting, the superior voting method, before it even has a chance to breathe. It is clear to me and my friends that plurality voting is flawed and needs to go, and many people have flocked to RCV as a potential cure for the issues with plurality voting. However, RCV does not deliver on its promises! Not only does RCV consistently disenfranchise voters through spoiled ballots and ballots that don't make it to the final round, it doesn't actually prevent the spoiler effect. In the Alaska 2022 general election, a 60% republican majority populous failed to elect the moderate republican Nicholas Begich due to so many votes getting spoiled by the more extreme Sarah Palin.

STAR voting on the other hand does not have these issues. The only reason it's not more popular is that people haven't heard of it. Anecdotally, this is exactly the experience I have whenever I present my arguments to my friends, as they are more than happy to support STAR voting once they learn about it. What Oregon needs right now is more time for the general public to learn about STAR voting. A ballot initiative IP 2024-011 is currently circulating to do just that, and passing this law would squash that ballot initiative before it even has a chance to be considered.

In summary, RCV doesn't deliver on its promises. STAR voting does. Vote no on House Bill 2004!