

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

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

My name is Carver Akiteru Oblander and I live in SE Portland. I am writing to urge your support for HB 2004, which will establish ranked choice voting statewide and help ensure all Oregonians are represented in our democracy.

Our current system of first-past-the-post results in a number of negative consequences. Many elections are essentially determined in the primary, leaving general election voters largely disenfranchised (despite the higher turnout in general elections, not to mention all the unaffiliated voters who could not vote in the primary if it was a closed one).

I am often frustrated when elections always seem to come down to choosing between the lesser of two evils, rather than voting for candidates I most support. Additionally, it seems inherently undemocratic when elections are functionally determined by (usually closed) primaries with lower turnout. This is why I was pleased to see both the city of Portland and Multnomah County vote to adopt forms of ranked choice voting for use in the future, and that the state of Oregon is now considering doing so as well. Ranked choice voting will better represent the will of the people than our current system does.

Oregon has long been a leader in election accessibility and integrity, something I enjoy touting to friends who live in other states. This is an opportunity to further entrench this legacy as a leader in democracy. Please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

Carver Akiteru Oblander  
He/Him