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To: Chair Julie Fahey  
Vice-Chair Vikki Breese-Iverson  
Vice-Chair Jason Kropf  
Members of the House Committee on Rules

From: Corvallis City Council

Date: March 20, 2023

Subject: Support for HB 2004 and Ranked Choice Voting

Chair Fahey and members of the Rules Committee. The Corvallis City Council hereby registers its support of HB 2004 and of ranked choice voting as a viable method of electing leaders.

Ranked Choice Voting promotes positive campaigning, advances consensus candidates, and allows for people to run on their true convictions rather than be boxed in or forced out of parties and races. With ranked choice voting, no elected official can serve the people if they don't win the support of a majority of the electorate. No one can win with less than 50% of the vote.

In early 2022, the City of Corvallis adopted ranked choice voting as the method of electing the city's mayor and city councilors. City staff and councilors conducted significant public outreach to ensure that voters were educated on the new process of elections.

That November, Mayor Charles Maughan and Councilor Tony Cadena were elected to vacant seats, winning by way of ranked choice voting. Neither candidate received over 50% of the vote in the first round so both elections went to a second round of voting. This allowed voters whose first-choice candidate placed last, to still have a voice in the election of their official with their second-choice vote.

The people of Corvallis voted in favor of ranked choice voting in 2016 and continue to support this improved voting method. Ranked choice voting has worked in Corvallis and it can work in Oregon as a whole.

The Corvallis City Council stands with our state representative, Speaker Dan Rayfield, and supports ranked choice voting. We urge the state legislature to pass HB 2004 and enact ranked choice voting as the method of choice for state and federal races.

Charles Maughan  
Mayor of Corvallis

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