

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

3/21/23

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

My name is Leslie Cano and I am with the Latino Community Association also known as LCA. I am here to testify in strong support of House Bill 2004, which will establish ranked choice voting statewide and help ensure all Oregonians are represented in our democracy.

We believe ranked choice voting leads to more reflective outcomes and better representation, a win-win for voters and candidates alike. One of LCA's goals is to help our community members achieve positions toward upward mobility. We recently started an advocacy and leadership program in which we encourage the clients we serve to step into positions of power. This can be serving on school boards, running for city council and overall just being able to represent and serve in the areas they live in. Implementing ranked choice voting would help encourage candidates from diverse backgrounds, such as the Latino populations we work with, to run for office—and cities that have switched to ranked choice voting have seen more women, people of color, working class people, and young people not only run for office, but win.

An additional benefit we see of implementing ranked choice voting is that candidates will now need to have a majority vote to win an election, which will help to ensure candidates who win have broader support and engagement from the communities they will represent. We've noticed during election season that our Latino community in Central Oregon often feels that candidates are not meeting them where they are or creating spaces for robust conversations about the issues we care about. Additionally, many of the materials candidates use are not available in multiple languages. This is something that can be improved by ranked choice voting because it encourages candidates to reach out to voters broadly and helps to build campaigns that are more centered around issues that voters are impacted by.

As a representative of the Latino Community Association, we ask that you please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

Leslie Cano

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Advocacy Coordinator
Latino Community Association

