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On Behalf Of: Sightline Institute Research and Reporting  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

I am writing to provide research-based positive reasons for the House Committee on Rules and the Oregon Legislature to support ranked choice voting. The information below is taken from the web site for the Sightline Institute's compiled research and findings. Thank you.

The Sightline Institute\* has been writing and researching ranked choice voting for several years. Sightline investigators found that ranked choice voting improves the incentive structure of elections for both voters and candidates. Voters have more opportunities to vote for the candidates they prefer without having to worry about splitting the vote and causing their preferred party to lose. And candidates and office-holders can more readily rack up wins by forging good working relationships with opponents and catering to the mainstream rather than to a more polarized political base.

It's tempting to think of politics in terms of personality problems. But with wave after wave of negative campaigns, it seems the problem is not really politicians' personalities. Maybe all politicians are not bad apples. Maybe our voting system is a bad barrel. The apples are fine when they go in; the barrel itself makes them rot. Winner-take-all voting spawns negative campaigns. But fair voting—multi-member districts with ranked-choice voting—creates more civil and engaging campaigns.

Senator Lisa Murkowski, is the Republican party's version of a black sheep. Though she is a Republican from a red state, many of her supporters are moderates and Democrats. And so Murkowski has become a master of balancing party fidelity with key votes and impassioned statements that make liberals and moderates cheer. Alaska's election reforms with Ranked Choice Voting grant Murkowski even more freedom to follow her conscience and be pragmatic.

\* Sightline equips Cascadia's citizens and decision-makers with the policy research and practical tools they need to advance long-term solutions to our region's most significant challenges. <https://www.sightline.org/introduction-to-ranked-choice-voting/#1631030966392-6d9b923a-d4b9>