

Submitter: Deanna Kallen
On Behalf Of: Equal Vote Coalition
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

My name is Annie Kallen and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am the president of the Equal Vote Coalition which advocates for better voting methods that

- a) prevent vote-splitting
- b) provide an equally weighted vote, and
- c) allow all voters to have their next preferences counted if their first choice doesn't win.

I am testifying today against HB 2004. So why am I opposing this bill when I advocate for all those things I just mentioned? It is because Ranked Choice Voting simply does not satisfy those very basic requirements, despite the fact that many advocates believe that it does. When I first learned about Ranked Choice Voting, I was very excited about it and planned to get involved with the movement. But the more I have learned about it, the more I have discovered that it is a trojan horse which only hides vote-splitting within a complex and non-transparent tabulation mechanism. It does not prevent vote-splitting and it gives some voters more voting power than others. Statistical simulations show it to have only marginal accuracy improvements over plurality plus runoff method, and it does so at the cost of a host of other drawbacks.

But this doesn't mean we can't have a better voting method. Oregon has always been a leader in election reform. That's why it's so exciting that we are leading the way with STAR Voting, a voting method invented here in Oregon which provides an equally weighted vote for all voters. In STAR Voting, if your favorite doesn't win, your vote still makes a difference. In other words, STAR Voting fulfills all of the promises of Ranked Choice Voting much better than Ranked Choice Voting does.

Furthermore, STAR Voting is much easier to implement statewide than ranked choice voting. It can be tabulated by county. It adheres to the highest auditing standards.

I urge you to vote no on this Ranked Choice Voting proposal. If you support improved voting methods, please consider endorsing STAR Voting for Oregon (IP-11) instead. It is a grassroots ballot initiative which truly represents the spirit and intentions of Oregonians.