

Submitter: Deanna Kallen
On Behalf Of: Equal Vote Coalition
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3509

Hello, my name is Annie Kallen and I am a resident of Portland, Oregon. I am the president of the Equal Vote Coalition and I am testifying against HB 3509. Ranked Choice Voting advocates say that ranking candidates is easy. This is very true. However, what is much harder is to understand some of the complexities of the tabulation in Ranked Choice Voting. For example, ranking your favorite candidate first can actually help your least favorite candidate to win. Many Ranked Choice Advocates are surprised to learn this. Additionally, if your favorite candidate doesn't win, your vote might not transfer to your next preference. In fact, this happens to a subset of voters in every Ranked Choice election. Thus, Ranked Choice Voting provides more voting power to some voters than others.

But I still have great hopes and great excitement for better voting in Oregon. That is why I am one of the chief petitioners on IP-11, STAR Voting for Oregon. STAR Voting was invented here in Oregon and all three chief petitioners are Oregonians born and raised. It represents the height of voting method science and we are excited to have been approved for circulation. Our volunteers have boots on the ground right now collecting signatures. Unlike Ranked Choice Voting, STAR Voting actually prevents vote splitting, and can do so while still being tabulated at a local level. STAR Voting has been used by the Democratic Party of Oregon and the Independent Party of Oregon, and will likely soon be used by the Libertarian Party of Oregon. Please do not undermine the hard work of STAR Voting advocates in the state. Please vote no on this Ranked Choice Voting proposal.