

Submitter: Erik Johnsen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I would like to state my strong support for Ranked Choice Voting in Oregon. RCV firstly provides greater choice and candidate viability to Oregon voters. There is no such thing as a "wasted vote." You can vote your conscious, and still vote strategically based on viable candidates. I personally believe that Betsy Johnson's candidacy for governor would not have floundered if people did not get worried about potentially putting one part or another into the governor's mansion. The current system only favors the current 2-party system, and effectively discourages choice for voters. Recent elections in Alaska show how well RCV can work, showing how voters don't have to coalesce around extreme candidates like Sarah Palin. RCV will reduce partisanship and increase the viability of moderate candidates in general elections.

RCV is also efficient. Recent examples in Georgia show how run-off elections waste time and money in finding the candidate with the most support, when only a plurality exists. RCV is also known as "instant run-off" voting, because preferences are taken into account in a systematic process, so a separate election with only two candidates is not needed.

Oregon has been a leading example for the country when it comes to mail-in voting. It is time for us to lead again when it comes to Ranked Choice Voting.