

March 20, 2025

Honorable Representatives:

I am deeply opposed to Ranked Choice Voting and hope you will consider rejecting the idea of thrusting it upon Oregon voters.

The Ranked Choice Voting system is in conflict with the idea of one man, one woman, one vote. As such it is neither attractive nor can I even understand why somebody would alter our system in that direction.

Furthermore this voting system conflicts with the way many Americans were taught to vote. I and many I know, go through our options and dismiss those individuals with whom we least agree until we arrive at the least offensive, and once in a while the best.

Why in the world would a serious "representative of the people" pick a system which will further complicate our voting procedure . I pray this is not a device to further discourage voter participation.

I love my vote and as a first generation American, whose family struggled for over a decade to become a part of the United States of America society, and whose parents and brother then became naturalized citizens, I am repelled by this change. Further, I worked hard very recently to persuade other fellow citizens to vote to maintain our current system. I believe it's horribly wrong for the legislature to override the citizen's vote. It also discourages citizen participation, not only to people like myself who have been involved with the legislative process at different times of my life, but it tells those citizens who are less familiar with the system, that their vote really doesn't matter. Thus it discourages participation of the very people for whom this government has been created. If you, the members of the legislature, really want this system, please use your personal time to attempt to persuade your constituency why rank choice voting is better than the current system. Bypassing the citizen's recent vote will only create more division in our society. It would impose upon the citizenry, something that clearly is not popular, and was rejected by vote of the citizenry.

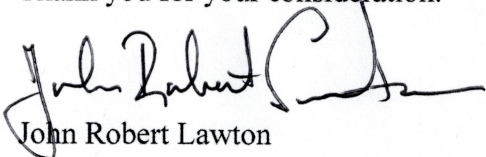
The chart below shows the outcome of the November 5, 2024 election results for Oregon Measure 117 (Ranked Choice Voting). This information is Per the Oregon Secretary of State's website.

OREGON MEASURE 117 (vote closed and tallied 11/5/2024)

<u>Result</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Yes	893,668	42.30%
No	1,219,013	57.70%

The point spread between the Yes and No votes was 325,345 votes. The percentage differential was 15.4%. In our times this should be considered a landslide, especially in a "Blue State", with election results which might be construed as a conservative vote. Maybe the representatives should rightfully refer to themselves as "non-representatives". Please consider what "representative" means if you choose to override the election results by legislative vote.

Thank you for your consideration.


John Robert Lawton