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From: Sara Wolk <sara@equal.vote>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 6:59 PM

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Subject: Submitting testimony on RCV for todays committee hearing

Hello Senate Interim Committee On Campaign Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today, and thank you for taking the time to hear from our presenters at length without cutting the discussion on the floor short. Because public testimony time was limited I'm submitting my planned testimony in writing here for you to review.

"Hello and thank you for taking the time to get informed and inspired by this issue. I believe that eliminating the spoiler effect, eliminating vote splitting, and empowering voters to vote their conscience is a critical piece of the puzzle in the fight against the undue influence of money in politics. For over 100 years Oregon has been a leader in this field and today it continues to be a leader, offering a proposal, STAR Voting, which offers a nationally viable, scalable, secure, and accurate proposal that goes farther than any before. We urge you today to give it a fair hearing. People who take a close look find that it's well worth it.

We have recently gotten a ton of traction from the adoption of STAR Voting by the DPO for the Presidential Delegates to the Democratic National Convention! Multnomah County Dems recently adopted STAR for all internal elections and added STAR to the platform as a Legislative Action Item. In the Eugene, Lane and Multnomah County areas there is significant traction building as well with multiple initiatives in the process to adopt STAR for local races.

With STAR Voting we would skip the low-turnout primary and just vote once in November for non-partisan races.

STAR stands for Score - Then - Automatic - Runoff, and that's exactly how it works:

You score candidates from zero (worst) up to 5 stars (best). Your vote automatically goes to the finalist you preferred between the two highest scoring candidates, so even if your favorite can't win, it's safe to vote your conscience without worrying about wasting your vote.

In many ways STAR is an upgrade to the Ranked Choice model that's been around for a century, going a number of steps further:

- \* STAR eliminates the spoiler effect, while RCV does not do so in races with more than 2 viable candidates.

- \* Eliminates wasted votes. Unlike RCV there are no "exhausted ballots" and all ballots count in the deciding.

- \* Studies show that STAR delivers much better accuracy and strategic voting resiliency when there are more than two candidates in the race.

- \* Easier to implement, compatible with existing voting machines in most cases,

- \* Compatible with all election integrity protocols around election security, chain of custody, decentralized tabulation, and risk limiting audits. RCV requires centralized tabulation and is not precinct summable because of the fact that not all rankings given are counted. It's impossible to know which data is relevant until all ballots are centralized.

I look forward to another session focused on STAR Voting or fairly presenting and comparing options for voting reform side by side.

Thank you,

-Sara Wolk

Director of Campaigns- STAR Voting for Eugene and Lane County Executive Director - Equal Vote Coalition

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[www.equal.vote](http://www.equal.vote)

<https://youtu.be/Q1PjRgs2ZPE>

If you support our work, please donate: <http://starvoting.us/donate> Use STAR Voting for your own elections or polls: <http://star.vote>

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