



04.08.21 Testimony on Ranked Choice Voting

To: The Modernization of the People's Legislature Committee

From: Michael Alfoni, Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates Executive Director

Thank you Co-Chair Wallan, Co-Chair Meek, and members of the committee for the opportunity to discuss modernizing our elections through Ranked Choice Voting.

For the record, my name is Michael Alfoni. I am a co-founder and the Executive Director of Oregon Ranked Choice Voting.

You've heard today from many advocates: Elected officials from both sides of the aisle (and both sides of the country), organizations representing a wide range of communities, and trusted experts on democracy. All agree: Ranked Choice Voting creates a more reflective democracy, benefitting Candidates Elected Officials and Voters.

All of this is supported by research, compiled over years of RCV elections – and data consistently shows candidates and voters alike consistently prefer RCV once they begin using it. Because of this, RCV is being rapidly adopted across the country.

Prior to founding Oregon RCV, I spent a career managing, staffing, or consulting on nearly 100 electoral campaigns here and across the nation. I am here today because I have seen firsthand – and at times contributed to – the dangerous increase in political polarization in America, driven largely by our current election system.

There is no one silver bullet, but your work here in this committee is part of the solution. As is Ranked Choice Voting. The community advocates, elected officials, and elections experts from Oregon you heard today, alongside national supporters including ten Nobel laureates, the Harvard Business School, publications from The New York Times to the The Economist, and many others across sectors and the ideological spectrum, all agree: Enacting RCV is one of the key critical steps we must take to renew and modernize our democracy.

While we won't be the first to blaze this trail, Oregon can still help lead the way for the nation.

But it also has very practical benefits: The bill up for consideration combines non-partisan races into one election, allowing greater participation especially by NAVs - while saving money for the state and municipalities by only having to administer one election.

Thank you again for your time, and for the work that you do. We hope to have your support. I'm happy to help facilitate any questions with today's panel of experts.
