

Chair Senator Wagner, Vice-chair Senator Girod and members of the committee:

I am providing testimony in support of SB 791.

I believe RCV would lead to a more representative election system than the current. The current system often results in candidates getting elected to office with less than 50% of the vote and consequently the majority are being represented by someone they didn't vote for and possibly can't even tolerate because of huge gaps in values and priorities between themselves and the elected representative.

RCV would minimize "wasted" votes and lead to less strategic voting. I can vote more honestly reflecting my true preferences with less concern about the spoiler effect.

The system allows for more choices, promotes more diverse political representation & increased political opportunities for traditionally underrepresented communities through improved leveling of the playing field. RCV means candidates must compete for support from all voters, and no community can be ignored.

I hope for more civil, issue focused campaigns vs negativity which RCV will facilitate through the reduction of the incentive for candidates to attack opponents when vying to be the 2nd or 3rd choice for the opponent's supporters. As a taxpayer, I would appreciate the cost savings in eliminating primary elections through RCV and a more streamlined process.

All the fore-mentioned advantages would lead to greater voter participation. Associated with RCV implementation, voter education would be very important to maximize effectiveness & to minimize consequences associated with misunderstanding the process.

In conclusion, the winning candidate through RCV will have majority support of voters and more fully represent the views and experiences of their constituents which is vital to a democracy.  
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Debbie Wong  
West Linn, OR