

Please reject SB 343 in its current form. The emergency declaration is unjustified, and it blocks flexibility in optimizing our electoral system by being specifically limited to the instant-runoff style of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). By contrast, HB3248 simply supports the capacity for reforms without limitation to RCV. Ranked Choice is a voting method that seems intuitive but does not live up to the promises of its advocates. It does not eliminate spoiler scenarios. In fact, for any election with 3 or more competitive candidates, RCV commonly has spoiler problems. It has a long history of being implemented and later repealed. The intentions of RCV advocates is great: to get elections to better follow the will of the voters. However, the best methods to accomplish that are improvements over RCV, namely Approval voting and STAR Voting. STAR has active Oregon-based support, it resolves the bulk of the flaws of RCV, and it is already now used internally in parties here. If SB 343 were amended to make the intent clearer, include Approval and STAR, and drop the emergency declaration, then it would be worthy of consideration. Please do not move forward with SB 343 as is.