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### **COUNTY CLERK COMMENTS ON RANKED CHOICE VOTING**

Dear Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, and Senators Burdick, Manning, and Thatcher,

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) support a thoughtful approach to legislation involving Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). According to FairVote.org, 9.2 million voting age citizens in the United States use RCV if you include the 5 million voting age citizens in New York City that will utilize RCV for the first time, on City contests, in 2021.

If SB 791 or its companion in the House, HB 2678, were to pass, Oregon would be the second largest jurisdiction in the US, behind NYC, with all 2,956,303 of its registered voters utilizing RCV on all federal and state contests. The largest 100% vote by mail jurisdiction in the United States currently using RCV is Benton County with 60,475 registered voters using RCV for elections on county offices.

A statewide move to RCV is a huge task to consider and OACC is very appreciative of the ability to work collaboratively with Representative Rayfield and advocacy groups to examine and talk through the complexities of applying RCV to Oregon's election system. What we have learned after being at this for a while is that it will be complicated and expensive. That does not mean that it cannot be done - but OACC wants to ensure that Oregon's reputation for integrity in elections remains intact along the way.

OACC asks the legislature to address several key questions, should they decide to move RCV forward:

- Can all 36 counties successfully implement the administration of RCV elections based on the implementation date on the bill?
- Is there enough time to educate voters to ensure that they can all be successful?
- Is there enough funding provided to county election offices for up-front implementation costs as well as ongoing increases in election administration?

OACC looks forward to continuing to provide subject matter expertise to this discussion.