

Senators,

I have been researching alternative voting methods for years, and have presented to numerous organizations including the League of Women Voters. I was a co-founder and long-time board member with the Center for Election Science, a non-profit which studies and advocates for better voting methods.

This bill would permit a specific type of ranked voting known as instant runoff voting, or "IRV" for short. While I support expanded options in how municipalities conduct their elections, I believe the exclusion of all other forms of voting creates an inherent bias in favor of IRV. Most experts in the field believe that simpler and more transparent alternatives such as STAR voting and approval voting lead to election results which more accurately reflect the will of the people. An unbiased version of SB 343 would give broad consent for municipalities to use an alternative voting method of their choosing. This is reasonable given that the one thing virtually all experts agree on is that the choose-one status quo, known as plurality voting or first-past-the-post, is the worst voting method used today.

Regards,
Clay Shentrup
Portland, OR