

Statement in opposition to ranked choice voting legislation unless STAR voting and Approval Voting are included

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

Having a free and fair democracy is the very foundation of our nation and this state. We've seen time and time again though that our current standard of First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) voting fails voters time and again. Be that at the local, state, or national level. I applaud this body and any other that seeks to ditch the defacto FPTP system and find something better.

Unfortunately Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) isn't the answer. Sure it has a catchy name, and it 'feels' right. But FPTP's idea of 'pick one person, and the person with the most votes wins' also feels intuitively right. But we see time and again that it leads to vote splitting, lack of participation, and all other sorts of election ailments. Think of how hard you fought to get where you are. Think of how some of your current or former colleagues have gamed the current FPTP system...they'll be able to do much the same with RCV.

Ranked Choice Voting is better than nothing, but it's a far cry from where we should be. The system is 150 years old and has been tried (and repealed) in many places throughout the world. Let's not make their same mistakes.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill. As it's very exclusionary and only promotes RCV, which is not our best option. If you could add language to include STAR Voting or Approval Voting that opens the door to better reforms. As written this bill traps us with this one-size-doesn't-fit-most solution that is RCV.

STAR Voting is mathematically the best solution out there for creating a great democracy. You should definitely support it wherever possible.

Approval Voting is a fairly close second and is super simple (and cheap) to implement. This is even more true if you require a runoff no matter the primary results.

Ranked Choice Voting though...it's and outdated system. RCV is subpar on almost every level (and only a tiny bit better than FPTP).

We can do better. We have better. As written, you should vote no on this bill. But if you allowed other alternative voting methods, like STAR Voting and Approval Voting, then you should move forward.

Regards,
Matt Otis
Portland, Oregon