

Esteemed Senators:

Please support SB 791, which establishes ranked choice voting for elections to nonpartisan state, county and city offices. Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a proven electoral reform that enhances voter choice, eliminating the third party spoiler effect, which also saves on the cost of staging run-off elections; whenever an election remains contested, it allows for immediate run-off tally.

Furthermore, it enhances political discourse by allowing a discussion of alternatives not captured by the two main parties, and it helps elections be more issue oriented with less negative mud-slinging. A candidate would want to ensure that she/he is 1st or 2nd choice of voters; so they would avoid alienating those voters with negative campaigning. It also increases voter participation, not only by increasing participation to the polls, but also by allowing more viable candidates to be willing to run for office.

This bill would create RCV elections for major party primaries, state nonpartisan elections, and local nonpartisan elections where allowed by Home Rule charters. This would be a HUGE leap forward for RCV in Oregon. RCV is now used in countries around the world, in cities and states like San Francisco and Maine, and the Academy of Arts and Sciences commissioned a report on electoral reforms and the Commission in "Our Common Purpose" lists Ranked Choice Voting as an important reform, even a priority. <https://www.amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose/report>

Thank you for keeping this important legislation in mind as you seek ways you can help Ranked Choice Voting become Oregon's 'choice' method of voting.