

My name is Jonathan Miller and I am here tonight to strongly urge you to vote against SB 791.

Ranked Choice Voting would be an improvement over our current choose-only-one plurality voting system, but it doesn't go far enough. Only STAR Voting has the accuracy to best represent the interests of all Oregon voters.

In the next 50 years, we will undergo massive societal changes. How we live, how we eat, how we drive, how we work are all going to change.

With the emergence of previously unimaginable technologies straight from the pages of science fiction, from autonomous vehicles to human genome editing, we need a democracy that can keep up.

We already see everyday how the current voting system, and the two-party system from which it stems, contributes to legislative stagnation. It's really really difficult to get meaningful reform passed, and this is becoming increasingly frustrating for both the electorate and for the lawmakers who swore an oath to advocate for their constituents.

Right now, we're told to pick a side. Yes or no. Red or Blue. Left or Right. But that's not how we are, as a people or as a society. We have overlapping beliefs. We very often like two candidates equally and want to show our support for both.

Star Voting was created, here in Oregon, by a team of election experts who were looking for a better way.

Not a system that favored either progressive or conservative values, one side versus another, but one that could actually bring all people, with their many faceted views and beliefs, together. A voting system that could show, statistically, where we agree, where we disagree, and exactly how close we are. In a fast-moving modern democracy, this kind of information is invaluable, and it's only possible through Star Voting.

These election experts, from both sides of the aisle, have determined Star Voting is the safest, simplest, and easiest way to improve the electoral process. Not just for Blue states, Red states, big cities or rural areas, but where it matters most: on every ballot we cast.

Here in Oregon, we have a chance to lead the world, and to lay the foundation for what could become a statewide and a national election reform. But to do so, we must adopt STAR Voting, not Ranked Choice. I urge you to vote against this bill, and to support STAR voting when that bill is introduced.

Thank you.