

Margie Trifari – State volunteer leader RepresentUs Oregon

To : Rules Committee members:

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

Thank you to Senator Golden for introducing SB 343

Subject : SB 343 permits counties to

adopt ranked choice voting and SB791 establishes Ranked Choice Voting for County Elections

Esteemed Committee Members:

As a person of advanced years raised to cherish our representative democracy, I never thought I would see the day when there was so much controversy over voting with so many Americans justifiably feeling that their vote does not matter. I personally know several who have given up on voting.

The truth is, that while plurality voting might be considered effective to people who cling to a 2 party system, it is a miserable failure to many of the 1,000,000 Oregonians like me who do not choose to be either democrat or republican. We are many, and we do not feel fully included in the representative aspect of representative democracy. Even many strong party members agree that this is not right. The time is clearly upon us to change the way we vote and I can't tell you how thrilled I am to see voting methods as a legislative agenda this year. Thrilled! But

There is not just one alternative voting method active here in Oregon and this is going to get confusing, not just to the people of Oregon, but probably to legislators as well. The voting methods are:

*Ranked Choice Voting — very effective and recognized by the most people

*Star Voting — fills some gaps left by RCV —with a tenacious group of volunteers who have been working tirelessly for some years to replace plurality voting

*Approval Voting — the easiest to understand and (If I understand it correctly) would not require new voting machines

IF ANY ONE OF THESE METHODS WERE THE ONLY METHOD INTRODUCING ITSELF IN OREGON I WOULD HAPPILY VOTE YES ON WHICHEVER METHOD THAT WAS. But such is not the case, and I can foresee a bit of a mess for the voting public and unnecessary expense for multiple types of voting machines and all processes associated if we just forge ahead — sad for me to say as I really want to forge ahead.

Sometimes the people of Oregon need leadership more than they need legislators, and I think the people of Oregon need to see strong leadership in this instance. This may not be something that can be resolved in 1 session. In order to deliver the best option for Oregon Voters, it seems that ongoing discussions might be required over several sessions in order to put the right method over the finish line in a consistent fashion that does not divide voters.

In light of the rumored nearly 3,000 pieces of legislation Oregon is processing this session, my request may sound a little unusual, but I think it is prudent. Cool Heads Prevail.

The time has come to figure out a new method of voting, for sure, but it must first be clear to the people. I am asking that you prioritize your role as leaders over that of legislators and advance this bill. I fear that doing less than putting it through will end a conversation that really needs to happen. It needs to be explored. I would like to open the door to all voting methods, starting with this one.

I am not sure it is time to pass the bill in 2022, but I am most certain that is time to advance this monumental change to something as precious to all Oregonians as our vote. It's a pretty big deal, and may take a few sessions. Meanwhile can we have a discussion by forwarding the bill. It's . It's a pretty big deal, and may take a few sessions. Meanwhile can we have a discussion by forwarding the bill? It's a waste of time and resources to not get this right. Might take a little time, and RCV is definitely an option to be considered.

Thank You for hearing me.

Margie Trifari