

Submitter: k davis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004, a referral to the 2024 ballot that would establish ranked choice voting for statewide and federal elections.

In our current elections, fear of “vote splitting” is currently affecting both voters and candidates: Candidates are often deterred from entering a race for fear of splitting voter support and voters are often forced to choose a candidate with a better chance of winning, instead of the candidate they actually prefer. As a result, many Oregonians –especially people of color, working-class people, rural residents, and young people – are less incentivized to participate in our elections. With over 70% of Oregon voters “extremely” or “very” discouraged by politics, we need a solution that will empower voters by giving them a real say in our elections.

I have too often been disgusted and discouraged by politics for much too long and have felt very frustrated each time I've had to vote for 'the most likely to win' candidate rather than a candidate I strongly support. I would love to see the day when I can feel hopeful going into an election!

I am not alone in my support of this bill. This legislation is supported by a coalition of over 35 organizations, including culturally-specific organizations, labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, youth-empowering organizations, and good government groups.

Please support HB 2004, which will refer this critical piece of legislation to voters for the 2024 ballot and pass it out of committee. Thank you!