

Submitter: Claire Montgomery
On Behalf Of: HB 2004
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I believe Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) can help depolarize our state politics. Only 58.5% of Oregonians are registered as either Democrat or Republican and can vote in primary elections. That means that 41.5% of Oregonians have NO VOICE in who actually appears on the final ballot. And that means that the most extreme factions (both Left and Right) can define our choices. Too many times, voters are left with a choice between the extreme wings of the two dominant parties. And we end up choosing the "lesser of two evils". This is not responsible governance. And we now see the consequences of that in the legislative stand-off in Salem over the "abortion and trans-treatment" bill. While many have strong feelings about that particular bill - the rest of the bills awaiting your action are important too!!! RCV could help us (the ordinary people of Oregon) elect people who will not hold good governance hostage over bills that push buttons on either the right or the left.

Please!!! get this bill up for a vote and pass it! If it doesn't even come up for a vote this session, I will be committed to supporting a referendum effort on its behalf. If the legislature can't do its job, maybe it's time for the people to take it on.