

Submitter: Brandon Philips
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

RE: Support HB 2004, Statewide Ranked Choice Voting,
Senate Committee on Rules

2023-06-18

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Brandon Philips and I live in Washington County. I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004, a referral to the 2024 ballot that would establish ranked choice voting (RCV) for statewide and federal elections.

Since I started voting in 2003 I, along with my wife and friends, have experienced a growing sense of disenfranchisement with our election system. In particular, the fear of vote splitting has a heavy affect on how we feel about our representative democracy. We are all tired of dragging out the ballot and choosing candidates with a strong chance of winning instead of candidates that we would prefer to represent us.

And we aren't alone: 70% of Oregon voters say they are “extremely” or “very” discouraged by politics. We need a solution that will empower voters by giving them a real say in our elections.

When my wife and I started having children we also wrote down things that we hope to see change in the country before our kids are adults. And the third item on that list was the passage of ranked choice voting. We deeply believe that RCV can help to heal some of the divide and give elected representatives better signal about what their constituents care about when they vote.

And we are not alone in our 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.

Ranked choice voting is Oregon’s next step as a leader in election reform. 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,

Brandon Philips