

Submitter: Barry Pederson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004. I'm pleased to see this has passed the House, and encourage the Senate to move this bill forward.

Our current first-past-the-post voting system is frankly an awful way to select an office-holder when there are more than two candidates in a race. It leads to "strategic-voting" and fears of "vote-splitting", as seen in our recent 3-way race for Governor.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) gives voters a better way to clearly express their preferences, and should ensure anyone seated under this system should have a reasonable mandate to govern.

Most of the written opposition testimony for the House hearing seemed to be simple-minded fear of any change, and I expect Senate testimony will be similar. RCV has been successfully implemented in Alaska, Maine, and many counties and cities across the nation and even in our state - there's no reason to think Oregonians statewide won't also come to embrace this system.

Please support HB 2004, and pass it out of committee.