



June 20, 2022

RE: Support HB 2004, Statewide Ranked Choice Voting

Senate Committee on Rules

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

My name is **Kim McCarty** and I am with the Community Alliance of Tenants. Our mission is to educate and empower tenants to demand safe, stable and affordable rental homes.

Our members support this bill. I am writing to testify in strong support of HB 2004, a referral to the 2024 ballot that would establish ranked choice voting for statewide and federal elections if approved by voters.

In our current elections, tenants often do not see someone who lives and understands their issues. 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.

It is important that people who rent homes in their community also get representation from people who have similar lived experience and will understand their issues.

Ranked choice voting is supported by Oregonians across all demographics, especially by those who have been marginalized in politics – including people who rent their homes, BIPOC voters, women, and young people.

- With local jurisdictions already turning toward ranked choice voting, it is clear that voters are looking for meaningful and systematic change to our elections. Benton County and Corvallis voters have successfully used ranked choice voting for their local elections, and both Portland and Multnomah County voters overwhelmingly approved the adoption of ranked choice voting this past November.
- HB 2004 will create a statewide ranked choice voting infrastructure that will give local jurisdictions the resources they need to be successful whilst preserving election integrity. As a proven election reform with over 60 jurisdictions using ranked choice voting across the country, voters not only find it simple to use, but, on average, over 70% of voters prefer it to the current system.
- By giving local jurisdictions the ability to opt into using ranked choice voting for local elections, HB 2004 will help create an infrastructure with standardized, multilingual and culturally responsive voter education tools and resources that these jurisdictions can use in future elections.

Ranked choice voting is Oregon’s next step as a leader in electoral reform. As a representative of Community Alliance of Tenants, we ask that you 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 for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim McCarty".

Kim McCarty

Executive Director

Community Alliance of Tenants