

Submitter: Emily Rosenthal  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

Dear Chair Lieber and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Dr. Emily Rosenthal, and I live in Portland. I am writing to you today to express my strongest possible support for House Bill 2004 to establish ranked choice voting for statewide and federal elections.

With our current political system, concern around "vote splitting" negatively impacts both voters as well as candidates. Candidates may be deterred from entering a race they are well-qualified for due to fear of splitting voter support, and voters often face the difficult decision of choosing a candidate that they see as having a better chance at winning, rather than the candidate that most closely mirrors their values. As a result of this, many Oregonians--particularly people of color, those with a lower socioeconomic status, rural residents, and young people--are less inclined to participate in 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 strongly believe that ranked choice voting more accurately embodies the democratic principles the United States was founded on, and creates outcomes that are more representative of a population's true wishes. Ranked choice voting is a way to step away from the harsh demarcations along party lines, and allows voters to simply choose the candidates that most closely embody their values.

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.

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.

Sincerely,  
Emily Rosenthal, MD  
she/hers  
Portland, OR