

Submitter: Michael Curtin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I applaud the effort to try to improve the current system. It definitely needs improving. Ranked Choice Voting is NOT the way to do it. Ranked Choice Voting is only slightly better than the current system. Ranked Choice Voting is a half-measure that, if implemented, will only make genuine future reform more difficult.

I urge you to please NOT vote yes on Ranked Choice Voting as the method for selecting the winner of any offices. It has most of the same problems as the current system. It has been around for over a hundred years and the results have been proven over and over. Like the current system:

1. Ranked Choice Voting still throws away votes
2. Ranked Choice Voting still leads to the phenomenon of voting for the lesser of two evils
3. Ranked Choice Voting is still vulnerable to multiple "Spoiler" candidates
4. Worst of all, Ranked Choice Voting still doesn't accurately reflect the voter's desires or intents.

Since you're already putting in the time and money to improve the current system, I would like to suggest the only voting system that addresses and improves or eliminates all of the above faults, Score, Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) Voting.

1. STAR Voting doesn't throw away any votes.
2. STAR Voting allows the voter to choose the candidate they really want, AND to reflect how much they want them.
3. STAR Voting is not invulnerable to multiple "Spoiler" candidates, but it is much less susceptible to them.
4. STAR Voting far and away reflects the most accurate counting of voter's desires and intents.
5. STAR Voting has a major benefit that no other system offers, results are quick, easy to tabulate, and inexpensive.

Like Democracy, STAR Voting is not perfect, but it is head and shoulders above any competition.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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