

Submitter: Wendy Cook  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

PLEASE VOTE NO ON RCV BILL 2004. I am actually surprised to be encouraging you to vote NO on a voting reform bill, because I strongly believe our voting system does indeed need reform. However, I believe just as strongly that Ranked Choice Voting is an “out of the frying pan, into the fire” scenario that will not lead to the improved results Oregon deserves for its electoral process. Worse, if RCV passes and then disappoints (as it’s expected to, given its many known flaws and history of repeals in other states), our efforts to pass more successful voter reform will become that much more challenging.

The good news is, efforts to implement a more successful system are already in the works with the current IP-11 initiative (<https://www.starvoting.org/star4or2024>) for scored STAR Voting. In fact, I’m so excited about STAR Voting that I have been volunteering my personal time and dollars to advance this thoughtful, science-based approach to ensuring the most fair and representative outcomes in our elections. The science-based electoral community has amply demonstrated that STAR Voting is the system that best (and most practically) enables voters to elect the representatives who are truly most favored by the most people. It lets us more confidently vote for our favorite candidates, rather than having to so frequently hold our nose and vote for “the least awful” ones.

The truth is, we’re probably not going to get many opportunities to overhaul Oregon’s electoral system. If we do it wrong, voters will shut down and stop listening. So let’s get it right, and implement STAR Voting, rather than rushing through a RCV system. Ranked Choice may currently be the more familiar, thus arguably easier alternative, but it’s not nearly as effective as STAR Voting. Oregon deserves the best!

Thanks for your consideration.