

Submitter: Cat DeMira
On Behalf Of: HB2004
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

RCV enables people to vote their conscience, instead of feeling alienated by having to vote for "the lesser evil", which has huge potential to increase engagement. It opens up the field to people and ideas outside the two-party stranglehold, which means the parties have to be accountable to public popularity for their policy stances. It weeds out the extremism that's undermining the American ideal of democracy. And perhaps most importantly, it means the person who wins an election actually got the most votes, which is pretty much the baseline definition OF representative democracy. In our current system, a three-way race can be won with 34% of the vote, and a ten-way race with a paltry 11% (or 10.001% or however many decimals you calculate to). Minority rule is a problem with two prongs: winner-take-all elections and low voter engagement. Ranked-choice voting might not be all that's needed to address those issues, but it's a crucial component and it ticks both boxes. I urge passage of HB2004 and the institution of RCV as soon as possible in Oregon.