

Submitter: Timothy SlevinVegdahl
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

RE: Support HB 2004, Statewide Ranked Choice Voting,
Senate Committee on Rules
<DATE>

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,
My name is Tim and I live in Portland. I am writing to testify in support of HB 2004, a
referral to the 2024 ballot that would establish ranked choice voting for statewide and
federal elections.

In our current elections, fear of “vote splitting” is affecting both voters and candidates:
Candidates are often deterred from entering a race for fear of splitting voter support
and voters are often forced to choose a candidate with a better chance of winning,
instead of the candidate they actually prefer.

I myself often feel it's unwise to vote for the candidates I actually prefer a good
portion of the time in anything above local elections. It would mean a lot to me and
many others if we could put in a system that lets me express my true preferences.
Not only does it get rid of spoiler effects, but it also allows us to express more in a
single vote than we could before by showing the order of our preferences, not just our
top pick. I also agree with arguments made that this will cause better alignment
between politicians and their constituents as it can be as valuable to sway vote order
as to be a top pick, which will cause more pandering to the center.

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,

Tim Slevin-Vegdahl