

Submitter: A Murray
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I'm thrilled that the legislature is considering ranked choice elections. I fully support the idea as a means of more accurately reflecting the will of Oregon voters. Also, it seems to me that the current approach only exalts candidates who rely on established power structures - like wealthy corporate donors and PACs - and the misinformation and trickery that they can afford to engage in. The current system perpetuates the lie that candidates who have not formed alliances with longstanding power brokers cannot win. The often-heard cry of "Pick who can win, not who you want. Otherwise, you're wasting your vote" is (by design I think) profoundly anti-democratic. And, among other things, encourages the increasingly common dirty trick of placing spoiler candidates into the mix. The track record of ranked choice makes me feel comfortable recommending we adopt it as a way of at least starting to clean up our elections. Oregon deserves this.