



To: House Committee on Rules
Re: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, House Bill 2004

June 20, 2023

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Marcus C. Mundy, and I am the Executive Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC). Thank you for the opportunity to share our strong support to advance HB 2004. CCC is an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural collective action for racial justice. For over twenty years, our coalition has worked to address institutional racism and economic disparities within our local and state systems and create viable pathways for communities of color to obtain self-determination, justice, and access to opportunities.

CCC is proud to be a part of the broad and vibrant array of over 35 organizations who support HB 2004, including, culturally-specific organizations, multi-racial groups, labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, and many others.

A key area of engagement for CCC is working to support policies and efforts to reduce barriers for communities of color, immigrants, and refugees to participate fully in our democratic processes. That means both ensuring every voice is fully heard in elections and supporting people of color who wish to run for office and serve.

Our Coalition of Communities of Color came together in 2001 because our Black, Indigenous, Latine, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities were weary of being pitted against each other for access to limited resources to serve our needs. We see this same dynamic play out under our current elections system. Multiple candidates of color are discouraged from running in the same race for fear that they will “split” the vote and no candidate of color will win. Additionally, we understand that communities of color are not a monolith and we must create pathways for candidates of color from various backgrounds, community groups, and ideologies to run for office.

Ranked choice voting will solve this problem in much the same way that the Coalition’s cross-cultural, collective approach has improved outcomes for our respective

communities. [According to a recent FairVote study](#), Black candidates who run against other Black candidates in ranked choice voting elections have a higher win rate. Candidates of other racial or ethnic backgrounds also experienced an increased win rate when they ran against candidates of the same racial or ethnic background.

The bottom line: at a time when democracy is under attack across our nation, ranked choice voting will greatly strengthen Oregon's democracy.

It will do this by empowering voters to share our full preferences and mark our ballots according to our values. Ranked choice voting will lead to less divisive campaigns in which candidates' civility towards and collaboration with each other will be rewarded rather than discouraged. More candidates of color will have an incentive to run without worrying that they will negatively impact fellow candidates of color in the same race.

Ranked choice voting is a proven solution and Oregon's next step as a national leader in election reform. The Coalition of Communities of Color asks that you please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcus C. Mundy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcus C. Mundy
Executive Director
The Coalition of Communities of Color