



The Office of
Senator Wlnsvey E. Campos
Oregon Senate District 18

TESTIMONY ON HB 2004: RANKED CHOICE VOTING

To: Senate Rules Committee

For the record, my name is Wlnsvey Campos, I use she/her pronouns, I am the State Senator for Senate District 18 which covers Aloha, Beaverton, Hillsboro, and parts of unincorporated Washington County. I am writing today to testify in support of HB 2004.

Colleagues, thank you for your time listening to all of the testimonies and words of strong support to advance ranked choice voting and HB 2004. I want to take a moment to uplift the broad support this priority has from both chambers and legislators of all backgrounds and beyond from communities across Oregon.

As a public servant, I have navigated firsthand the systemic barriers that many candidates face when making the choice to run for office and navigating the landscape that our current election system creates. While HB 2004 implements ranked choice voting for statewide and federal elections, and does not impact state legislative races, I believe my experience resonates across all levels of our government and elections. A key barrier that communities of color and other marginalized communities face in the existing voting system includes a fear of splitting the vote among candidates who share similar values or backgrounds. Since voters are only given one choice to make the important decision about whom they want to be represented by, oftentimes, candidates feel discouraged from running for office in the first place because they don't want to be the spoiler candidate taking votes from another candidate who has a like-minded platform.

It is clear that our current voting system impacts the experiences of both voters and candidates. I support ranked choice voting because I believe it will provide a newfound eagerness for voters to have a greater ability to express their complex values through their ballot and be able to see their vote count for multiple candidates who they feel passionate about. In that same regard, I support ranked choice voting because it will open the door to more first-time and diverse candidates to make the choice to run for office and, ultimately, help elect candidates from community groups that have been traditionally underrepresented.

Oregon has made significant progress recently in helping to diversify our elected leadership across all government levels, including electing the first openly Lesbian State Governor, Tina Kotek. Nonetheless, these systemic barriers remain and continue to have detrimental impacts, especially on candidates who lack access to financial resources. Additionally, these barriers make it more difficult specifically for women, people of color, people from rural areas, and others to run for office and get elected. Ranked choice voting will help to reduce these systemic barriers by making it more effective for candidates to build coalitions, reducing tactics of

negative campaigning that disproportionately affect marginalized candidates and ensuring voters' choices count for a candidate who earns broad support. HB 2004 is the next step to ensure there is a consistent pathway for better representation for all Oregonians, from communities of color to rural communities to LGBTQ+ communities and more.

While we are here to bring ranked choice voting statewide to Oregon, I want to conclude by highlighting the coalition that has united to pass HB 2004 as the proposed legislation to achieve this. As state lawmakers, our job is to uplift legislative processes that are collaborative and rooted within community. HB 2004 is a reflection of the hard work community advocates, culturally-specific organizations, and local leaders across the state have engaged in for years to ensure this priority is heard.

I humbly ask for your support to advance HB 2004. Thank you for your consideration.