

RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004
House Committee on Rules

March 18, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is **Marian Drake, EdM** and I live in **Portland**. I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004, which will establish ranked choice voting statewide and help ensure all Oregonians are represented in our democracy.

In our current elections, candidates in crowded races are consistently winning with less than a majority. Over half of statewide and federal races with more than two candidates won with narrow support in Oregon's 2020 and 2022 primaries¹, leaving voters feeling like their vote didn't count and unable to fully express their preferences. Fear of splitting the vote creates barriers for candidates to run and leads to voter cynicism. It's clear that our elections aren't serving voters or candidates as best as they could. Ranked choice voting is a simple improvement to our elections that will lead to more reflective elected bodies for Oregonians from every community.

I believe that Ranked Choice Voting is an example of true democracy, that the two party system of voting has been proven not to do. I would hope that Ranked Choice Voting would eliminate the dysfunctional Electoral College, which has caused men who did not win the majority vote to become President of the United States many times in the last ten years.

Five states used RCV in the 2020 Democratic Party presidential primaries: Alaska, Hawaii, Kansas, and Wyoming for all voters and Nevada for absentee caucus voters.

Portland Voters have elected a new form for Portland's City Council, which includes Ranked Choice Voting. I supported this measure

I am not alone in my support of this bill. This legislation is supported by a coalition of over 35 organizations, including culturally-specific organizations, labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, youth-empowering organizations, and good government groups.

Ranked choice voting is a proven solution and Oregon's next step as a leader in election reform. Please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

Marian Drake (she, her)

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¹ Oregon Secretary of State, [State of Oregon Elections: Election History](#)