

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I'm writing today on behalf of Unite America in support of HB 2004 A, a bill to establish ranked choice voting (RCV) for statewide and federal offices, for both primary and general elections.

Ranked choice voting is a simple improvement to elections, and would give Oregon voters more voice in their representation to ultimately elect the most reflective leaders. Decades of evidence, polling, and research in jurisdictions that use RCV demonstrates that voters find RCV simple, candidates campaign more civilly, and the system does not advantage one party over the other.

The use of RCV in states and localities — from New York City to Utah — provides compelling data. In [exit polling](#) following the use of ranked ballots, voters overwhelmingly both understand how to rank candidates on their ballot, and prefer the continued opportunity to do so in future elections.

In Alaska following the November 2022 use of the system, 79% of Alaskans across demographic groups [reported](#) RCV to be “simple.” Candidates campaigned to the entire electorate to receive second or third-choice support from voters, rather than purely against the other party on the ballot. Republicans, Democrats and independents prevailed under the new system at the state legislative and federal level, representing the diversity of the electorate without shifting the margins of power to unfairly advantage one party.

As with any change to an election system, voter education and clear ballot language are just a few essential components. Past implementation of RCV not only leaves Oregon's legislators and election administrators with tools at their disposal, but also a blueprint for success.

Thanks for your consideration of this legislation,

Beth Hladick
Director of Research & Outreach, Unite America