



### **03.16.23 Rules Committee Testimony on HB 2004 - Ranked Choice Voting**

To: The House Rules Committee

From: Michael Alfoni, Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates Executive Director

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Thank you Chair Fahey, Co-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and members of the Rules Committee for this hearing on HB 2004 which will make our elections more representative through ranked choice voting.

My name is Michael Alfoni. I am political consultant and the co-founder and Executive Director of Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates. We have been supporting the broad coalition of over 30 organizations supporting HB2004, which is led by organizations representing communities of color, labor, and youth – alongside good government, environmental, and other advocacy groups.

Ranked choice voting creates a more reflective democracy - benefitting candidates, elected officials, and most importantly: voters. It removes many barriers to entry for new voices running for office, and allows them to run (and govern) on the issues they and voters care most about. Voters in the 63 jurisdictions that have adopted ranked choice voting consistently greatly prefer it to our current “plurality” elections. All of this is supported by research, compiled over years across over 500 RCV elections and 20,000,000 ranked choice ballots cast. Because of this, RCV is being rapidly adopted across the country.

I spent a career managing, staffing, or consulting on nearly 100 electoral campaigns here and across the nation. I have seen firsthand – and at times contributed to – the dangerous increase in political polarization in America, driven largely by our current election system.

There is no one silver bullet, but your work here in this committee supporting ranked choice voting can be a significant step forward in solving these issues. Community advocates, elected officials, and elections experts from Oregon - alongside national supporters including ten Nobel laureates, the Harvard Business School, publications from The New York Times to the The Economist - all agree: Enacting ranked choice voting is one of the critical steps we must take to create a stronger, more representative democracy.

Oregon’s vote-by-mail, automatic voter registration, and other election systems have been a model for others nationwide. We ask that you support HB2004 and enact the simple, proven upgrade that is ranked choice voting.

Thank you again for your time, and for the work that you do. We are excited for you to support HB2004.

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