

To: House Rules Committee
From: Kate Titus, Common Cause Oregon
Re: Ranked Choice Voting (HB 2004)
Date: March 16, 2023

Common Cause

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest, accountable government. We are 1.5 million Americans – including roughly 30,000 Oregonians – working together to realize the unfinished promise of democracy.

Support for HB 2004

Common Cause Oregon has joined forces with the broad coalition of public interest organizations supporting HB 2004, because **ranked choice voting is a proven voting method** to better achieve several important goals:

- **More reflective representation** – Most importantly, ranked choice voting allows a broader range of candidates to run for office (without fear of splitting the vote), leading to a more diverse candidate pool and ultimately to more reflective representation.
- **Less negative campaigning** – It also incentivizes more civility on the campaign trail, as candidates seek not only to win voters away from their opponents, but in some cases, to become the second or third choice of their opponents' voters.
- **Better voter experience** – Ultimately, voters tend to like ranked choice voting because it provides a more meaningful choice. Voters can vote their true preferences without fear of wasting their vote or contributing to a “spoiler” effect. If their first choice is eliminated, their secondary preferences are still taken into account in subsequent rounds, resulting in a higher level of voter support for the final winner and more voter satisfaction.