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March 10, 2023

Committee on Rules
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Salem OR 97310

Re: HB 2004

I am writing in support of this bill and I would urge the Legislature to give Oregon voters the opportunity to discuss this legislation and enact it into law.

Ranked Choice Voting gives voters more choices at the ballot box, and allows all of us to prioritize our choices, and stimulate richer discussions on the relative merits and qualifications of candidates. This makes the act of voting more of a discussion, more of a meaningful debate on who is best to serve in leadership.

This proposal broadens the franchise, and encourages voters to be better informed and more engaged in the electoral process.

Life is not generally black and white/yes or no. Good decisions are based on comparisons and evaluations. We rank our other significant choices by merit, and voting should also be done that way.

Ranked Choice Voting will enrich and stimulate the electoral process, and encourage voters to be more thoughtful, more analytical, more “choosey” on their ballot choices.

This process seems to be healthy and popular in Alaska and is working well in Benton County. Oregon has been a strong leader in electoral reform and this effort is a continuation of Oregon’s respect for citizen participation and an expanded, better informed electorate.

Respectfully,

Neal Lemery, J. D.