

Submitter: Nic Westendorf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

March 10, 2023

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

My name is Nic Westendorf and I live in Beaverton. 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 primaries, 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.

Often I find myself voting for the most electable candidate that shares most of my values rather than my actual preferred candidate. By implementing ranked choice voting I can vote based on my preferences, knowing that my vote won't be "wasted" if my candidate doesn't garner enough support, but rather my vote would count toward representing my values for the next candidate(s) down the ballot.

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. This is a huge step in increasing representation in our democracy and improving our voting system in Oregon. I truly thank you for the time and hope you will support this bill.

Thank you,

Nic Westendorf
He/Him