

Submitter: Nicholas Whisman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I believe ranked choice voting to be an unambiguously better system than the current first-past-the-post system. It allows the citizens of the state more nuance in choice, something sorely needed. In the current system, we are often faced with a "lesser of two evils" style choice, where no matter which side you are on, you are essentially compelled to either vote for someone you don't like or someone you find morally reprehensible.

One can counter-argue that a solution to this issue is greater civic participation, particularly in primaries. Which, while I agree that would help, that does not solve the core issue of being forced to choose a "bandwagon" to jump on as opposed to truly voting our conscience.

Beyond that, the political spectrum in Oregon is notoriously larger than in many other areas of the country. We are home to many ideas, and yet pragmatically we limit ourselves to merely two boxes, subject further to the whims of national party trends. With a greater variety of candidates with a chance of victory, we find ourselves able to more adequately find truly representative representatives true to Oregon values.

Thank you for your consideration.