

Submitter: Seamus Wood  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

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

My name is Seamus Wood and I am a young active voter in Eugene. I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2004, which will establish ranked choice voting statewide.

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.

Ranked choice is amazing, it can let us escape the two party system so that everyone across the political spectrum is better represented. I am a generation z voter and let me assure you that bills like this will get you the support of younger voters as we become an increasingly larger portion of the voter base. Please let Oregon be one of the trail blazers on election reform by supporting HB 2004 and pass it out of committee or you will have lost the voter of the increasingly important future generations.

I am far from alone in my support of this bill. This legislation is supported by a coalition of over 30 organizations, including culturally-specific organizations, labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, youth-empowering organizations, and good government groups.

Thank you for your time: Seamus Wood