

RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004
House Committee on Rules

March 12, 2023

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

My name is Holly Gabriel and I live in Medford. 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 primaries¹, 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.

I hate the fear of splitting the vote. I want to be able to rank my choices so that I can learn more about each candidate and how much I support them. Medford would benefit from this process because all voters would have the chance to express their opinions more clearly with ranked choice voting statewide.

I am not 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.

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.

Thank you,
Holly Gabriel, MPH, MLS
she/her/hers

¹ Oregon Secretary of State, [State of Oregon Elections: Election History](#)