

03.16.23 Rules Committee

Testimony on HB 2004 - Ranked Choice Voting

March 12, 2023

Members of the House Committee on Rules

My name is Felipe Lora and, for the health of our democracy, I am supporting Ranked Choice Voting.

As someone who recently got elected to the State Coordinating Committee of the Pacific Green Party, I have come to appreciate the value of Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) in promoting a more democratic and equitable electoral system. In my view, our current voting system is anti-democratic, forcing voters to choose between the lesser of two evils, which often leaves us, the voters, feeling unrepresented and disenfranchised.

My experience is not unique, during the last three elections, a majority of my friends and family voted against the candidate they disliked the most, instead of voting for the candidate they actually liked. This compromise of our values was disheartening, and it was frustrating to think that our votes were not truly reflecting our preferences.

That's why I am asking you to support this bill and make ranked choice voting a reality. If you do, RCV will empower voters to vote for the candidate they truly believe in, without the fear of "wasting" their vote or splitting the vote. It's time to change our voting system and create a more inclusive and equitable democracy

My personal experience and the insights of experts like Rob Richie have shown me that Ranked Choice Voting is the way forward for our democracy. It gives me and other voters more agency, empowers us to vote our values, encourages more candidates to run for office, and creates a more representative and reflective elected body. As such, it is not just a political issue for me, but a deeply personal one that reflects my commitment to a more just and equitable society.

Thank you for your time,

Felipe Lora,
Portland, OR