

Submitter: Angela Plowhead
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I do not support HB2004 or the upcoming bill SB506. No Ranked-Choice Voting System in Oregon!

Rank Choice voting (RCV) is often more complicated than traditional plurality voting. Voters must rank candidates in order of preference, which can be confusing for some voters. Oregon has one of the fastest aging populations in the nation. This type of voting disenfranchises older voters who may be more easily confused by the complexity of this system and not have support in completing the ballot. The counting process can also be more complex, with multiple rounds of redistribution and elimination until a candidate has a majority of votes.

RCV can limit voter choice by reducing the number of non-major party candidates who are able to compete in an election, further solidifying a two party system and eliminating diversity of thought amongst voters and suppressing the voice of minority parties and voters.

RCV can also be subject to technical difficulties, such as problems with ballot design, tabulation errors, or glitches in software. These issues can undermine the integrity of the election and lead to disputes over the results. Further lengthening the time between the election and the voter and candidate having clear results.

RCV may be unfamiliar to many voters, which could lead to confusion or mistakes. If voters don't understand how to rank candidates or how the counting process works, they may make errors that affect the outcome of the election. This lack of familiarity could also deter some voters from participating in the first place.