

Submitter: Connie Whelchel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

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

1) Complexity: 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. The counting process can also be more complex, with multiple rounds of redistribution and elimination until a candidate has a majority of votes.

2) Limited choice: RCV can limit voter choice by reducing the number of candidates who are able to compete in an election. Smaller or newer parties may struggle to compete against established parties, as voters may be hesitant to rank them first if they think they have no chance of winning.

3) Unintended Consequences: RCV can lead to unintended consequences, such as strategic voting or vote-splitting. Voters may strategically rank candidates in order to prevent a less-favored candidate from winning, rather than ranking them based on their true preferences. In some cases, this can result in a less desirable outcome.

4) Technical difficulties: 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.

5) Lack of familiarity: Finally, 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.