

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

March 14, 2023

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

My name is Camryn Cicchetti and I live in Grants Pass, Oregon. 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.

As a young voter, I have only participated in a handful of elections. Yet, it was instantly clear to me that voting wasn't as simple as choosing the candidate who values I most supported. First-past-the-post voting is inundated with flaws and leads to votes that don't reflect the actual views of many Americans. I often find myself voting strategically in order to try to ensure the candidate I do not support has a lesser chance of winning the majority. The switch to ranked choice voting not only strengthens the people's vote, but enhances democracy as a whole. Increased voter turnout means increased voices, and from my experience, many young voters are failing to vote as they question the significance. There must be a change to how we elect our representatives, and ranked choice voting is the clear answer. Young people are the future of our government, and we want diverse representatives who reflect everyone's views, including our own.

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,

Camryn Cicchetti
She/her/hers

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

