

Submitter: jesse largent
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

My name is Jesse Largent and I live in Portland . 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 primaries, 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've lived in many different states from Illinois and Oklahoma and seen this time and time again from both sides of the aisle. I've called Oregon home now for over 10 years and I'm excited to see the chance for ranked voting in our state. There have been several elections where I felt I had to vote for the safe vote even though someone else was more in line with my beliefs. I also feel it will help the climate of our current political schizm to cool down. People will feel like they can vote for who they want.

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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,

Jesse Largent