

Submitter: Scott Beck
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

My name is Scott Beck and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to testify in strong support of HB 2004 to establish ranked choice voting in statewide and federal races. Ranked choice voting would 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 support this bill to bring better representation to our elected offices. I support this bill to give voters like myself a better way to honestly express our values on our ballots. I support ranked-choice voting as a simple improvement to make a big impact statewide. I support this bill to ensure candidates have broad support across all communities in order to win.

I am not alone in my support. The legislation is supported by a coalition of over 35 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,
Scott Beck
(he, him, his)