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To: Chair Julie Fahey
 Vice-Chair Vikki Breese-Iverson
 Vice-Chair Jason Kropf
 Members of the House Committee on Rules

From: Mayor Charles Maughan

Date: March 13, 2023

Subject: Support for HB 2004 and Ranked Choice Voting

Chair Fahey and members of the Rules Committee. I am Charles Maughan, Mayor of the City of Corvallis. I would like to express my personal support for ranked choice voting.

As the first, and currently only, Mayor in Oregon elected by ranked choice voting, I support the system and encourage the state legislature pass HB 2004 and enact ranked choice voting as the method of electing federal and state elected officials.

In November 2022, one of my city councilors and myself were elected by ranked choice voting. Neither of us received over 50% of the vote in the first round so both elections went to a second round of voting. The tables below walk you through the results of my election:

First Choice Votes

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Andrew Struthers	7115	34.41 %
Charles Maughan	7883	38.13 %
Roan Hogg	5504	26.62 %
Write In	174	00.84 %

If this were a standard “first past the post” election, I would have won the Mayor’s race here with a respectable margin of 768 votes (3.72 %). However, you can see here that if none of the voters who supported former City Councilor Roan Hogg liked me, the 61.87 % of Corvallis voters would not have voted for their newly elected Mayor.

However, since this was conducted by ranked choice voting, Roan Hogg received the fewest votes and was eliminated from the contest. Those who voted for Hogg as their first choice then had their votes moved to their second-choice candidate. If they chose no second-choice candidate (i.e. only voted for Hogg). Their votes were then “exhausted”. (Note: no Write-In Voters chose a remaining second-choice candidate)

Calculating Round Two

Candidate	First Choice Votes	Second Choice Votes from Hogg Voters	Final Tally after RCV	Final Percentage after RCV
Andrew Struthers	7115	2741	9856	49.91 %
Charles Maughan	7883	2007	9890	50.09 %

(Note: 756 Hogg voters chose not to rank a second-choice candidate)

The final difference between Struthers and myself was 34 votes (0.08 %), showing a much tighter race for Mayor. I support ranked choice voting because it allows the voice of the people to more accurately be heard and for no candidate, myself included, to be elected without the support of more than 50 % of the electorate. Please vote to pass HB 2004 and enact ranked choice voting statewide.

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Charles Maughan
Mayor of Corvallis