

Submitter: Diana Castillo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

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

My name is Diana Castillo and I live in Corvallis. 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 also prevents candidates from pandering to extremes in order to win primaries, and can lead to candidates who more accurately represent their constituent base and who have a real dedication to the people of Oregon, rather than what plays best to a small segment of people.

I also live in Corvallis, a city that has implemented ranked choice voting on a local level. This has allowed us to vote for a candidate who best represents us, and creates a more democratic system. It's incredibly frustrating to be able to use choice voting for local election, but not for state elections that have much larger stakes.

I am not alone in my support of this bill. This 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,
Diana Castillo
she/her