

Submitter: Leah Benson  
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 Leah Benson. I'm a small business owner and consultant who is a proud resident of Portland who and I am writing to express my in strong support for HB 2004. I firmly believe that Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) can diversity our candidate pool and enfranchise more voters and I hope you will heed the voice of the people (have you heard that 73% of voters prefer RCV?) and support this bill.

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. I'm an engaged citizen who makes a point of voting in every election; however, I must admit that it's often with lacking enthusiasm. With the majority-less winner situation just, I often find myself voting for the candidate that I believe has the best chance of winning, rather than the one who I truly believe in. I want to move forth with my civic duty of voting with enthusiasm for the process and excitement in the outcome, rather than holding my nose and choosing the lesser of the evils. 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.

Oregon has long been a leader in election reform — let's continue that trend. Please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,  
Leah Benson