

Submitter: Charles Newlin  
On Behalf Of: Pacific Green Party  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

Dear Oregon House Members:

Ranked Choice Voting will greatly improve Oregon Democracy.

First of all, by ending the extortion the present system applies to voters, threatening them with a candidate they want least if they vote for the one they actually want. Without that unfair pressure, voting will be a much better expression of the will of the people.

Next, by insuring that officeholders receive a majority, not just a sometimes-paltry plurality. Office holders like you will have much greater legitimacy.

Next, by encouraging civil, positive, issue-oriented campaigning, because each candidate will want to attract the 2nd, etc., choices of their opponent's supporters. The importance of that has already been demonstrated in places like Alas

As a bonus, RCV (Instant Runoff) is an effective way for voters to choose among multiple options. Referendums would also be better.

And finally, because it's a way to choose among multiple options, it could eliminate the primaries, which would go back to being operated by the respective parties. That would make the election season much shorter and cheaper, which all of us would welcome. And it would eliminate the present unfairness, that people who are not members of a major party - around 40% - are required to pay, via the state, for the major parties to choose their candidates.

To sum up: more and better democracy; more civil campaigns, a relief for all of us; more legitimacy for office-holders; and potentially, a shorter, cheaper campaign season. It's a superior system overall.