

NATHALIE PARAVICINI

Portland OR 97206

Tel: 971-244-4694

nathalie@pacificgreens.org

March 15, 2023

Re Support for HB 2004

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

My name is Nathalie Paravicini, a Naturopathic Doctor in the state of Oregon. I am writing to express strong support of HB 2004, establishing Ranked Choice Voting statewide.

Confidence in government and elected representatives is at its lowest. Frustration and anger is growing over the amount of money poured into campaigns, as well as the resulting policies that benefit the very rich at great cost to the rest of us.

A measure of the dissatisfaction with the major parties is the increasing number of unaffiliated voters in Oregon and elsewhere. We need to remember that over \$250 million in firearms flood the United States. The increasing violence across society (in deeds and in words) along with increasing (white nationalist) paramilitary activity, make true political expression all the more necessary. Climate Change is going to continue fueling tensions and migration.

It is with this backdrop that we collectively urge you to pass HB 2004. The benefits of Ranked Choice Voting are multiple. RCV:

1) Decreases administrative costs while improving operations, by having a mechanism to run immediate runoff calculations. It saves the money of organizing entire new election while ensuring a smooth transition with incoming administrations.

We are also spared relentless campaign advertising during runoffs.

2) Ensures campaigns focus more on substance than on personality or personal attacks. Candidates want to be rated #2 by their opponent's voters; decreasing the incentive for negative campaigning.

3) Promotes more vigorous discussion of problems and plans, by facilitating participation from alternative voices. RCV creates the opportunity to share information, to air new ideas and unique perspectives.

Voters are thirsty for meaningful discourse, thus the increasing number of sources of information and perspectives. RCV provides an avenue to foment true dialogue with people from different perspectives, thus helping decrease conflict.

4) Allows true expression of voter's aspirations. Winner-take-all electoral systems are very antiquated and punishing. They force false choices because of the "good cop" vs "bad cop" discourse. In the experience of Green Party activists, this false choice or lack thereof is the single biggest barrier or demotivator to participation, regardless of political affiliation.

People are voting based on political calculation for fear of "wasting" their vote. Voters feel frustrated because they cannot express their true ideals and aspirations.

5) Motivates participation of potential candidates. The same concern about "spoiling" races by running for office follows with the antiquated "winner-take-all" way to decide elections. How can running for office spoil the process; when we desperately want more participation? Many positions go uncontested because it is so difficult to run for office in the US and in Oregon. RCV would make the system infinitely more accessible - while also decreasing costs of operation!

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,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name "Dawn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial letter.