

Submitter: Thomas George
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

As our legislators can attest, Oregon's current "first past the post" system of voting drives voters to two polar parties, predictably resulting in the type of uncompromising opposition that now impedes our government. While the current system may seem to benefit the prominent parties, those parties are deeply hamstrung by the need to keep their platforms broad and symbolic. Ranked choice voting will give voters additional choice at the polls, while enabling parties to craft clear, decisive platforms. It does not favor one party or another. Instead, it will allow candidates to seek common ground among voters, rather than being beholden to one fringe or the other. (Yes, I believe one fringe is presently more dangerous than the other, but fringes make poor hand-holds, regardless).

Ranked choice voting is our best option to build consensus, ease gridlock, and free our legislators to achieve the aims that drew them to public service. Thank you for your service, and for considering ranked choice voting as a saner means to elect your colleagues.