

Submitter: Katherine Maack
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I support HB 2004 which will establish ranked-choice voting in Oregon across a variety of Federal and State offices.

Across a variety of key metrics, ranked-choice voting is superior to our current plurality method of voting.

The Center for Campaign Innovation found that ranked-choice voting (RCV) in primaries produces candidates with higher favorability and name recognition. They attribute this to voters being more likely to research multiple candidates when given the opportunity to rank candidates rather than choose one. When polling voters, they found that ranked-choice voting encouraged perceived positive tone campaigns over negative when compared to single-member district plurality voting. Many of us are tired of smear ads during campaign season; transitioning to ranked-choice is a statistically significant method by which to reduce these.

A 2021 research paper found that Independent and third-party candidates fare better under RCV elections[1], giving voters more opportunity to vote for their ideal representative(s) rather than being coerced into voting strategically. How often have voters lamented the need to limit their votes to the candidates they consider most likely to win, rather than to vote according to which candidates best exemplify their values? Transitioning to ranked-choice voting ensures folks can vote third-party without feeling like their vote is as politically effective as lighting their ballot on fire.

Fairvote indicates that ranked-choice voting increases voter turnout[2]. Researchers found an average 9.6% voter turnout increase[3] for ranked-choice mayoral elections in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota Metro region. In shifting to ranked-choice voting, we will encourage increased voter turnout during Oregon's elections, a testament to increased trust in our democratic process.

HB 2004 constitutes notable, positive progression in our elections here in Oregon, and I would be pleased to see our state more prominently join the ranks of folks embracing this superior voting system. Please support HB 2004.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3769409
<https://fairvote.org/resources/data-on-rcv/#voter-turnout>
http://eamonmcginn.com.s3-website-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/papers/IRV_in_Minneapolis.pdf