

Submitter: Palmer Campbell-Kaswell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I am writing to share my support for House Bill 2004.

Our current choose-one system forces voters to choose one of two viable candidates, without regard to their actual preference. This strips our options for political speech in voting down to a binary—red or blue—and gives rise to the spoiler effect, by which a less-popular candidate can take votes away from another candidate, allowing a different candidate to win without a majority. To make matters worse, political organizations will often excessively fund a third-party candidate in the hopes of spoiling the vote.

It doesn't have to be this way. By allowing voters to rank their preferences, more candidates can run without risking the spoiler effect. This allows voters to express their values without wasting their vote. RCV is a simple improvement to our voting system, and is proven and popular in other states.

Ranked-choice voting is tried and true. Alaska, Maine, Nevada, military voters overseas, and many cities in the US all successfully use RCV. While RCV is not a miracle cure for all of politics, it is a simple and well-tested improvement that gives voters meaningful choice and reduces the risk of split votes and the spoiler effect. Please pass HB2004.