



RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004
House Committee on Rules

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 2004 to bring ranked choice voting to our beloved home of Oregon.

My name is Sol Mora, I grew up in Salem, Oregon after immigrating from Mexico at the age of six, and currently reside in Portland, Oregon. I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC). CCC is an alliance of eighteen culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to advancing social change to help our communities obtain wellness, justice, and prosperity.

Through our testimony, you have heard from leaders across the country about the proven benefits of ranked choice voting that their states have experienced firsthand. You have heard about the historical wins to improve representation for communities of color, working-class people, first-time candidates, and others that have been successful because of ranked choice voting. And, you have also heard that voters across the country feel more empowered when their vote has a greater chance of helping the candidates with their shared values win.

At a time when voters feel demoralized and lack faith in our election system, we must address the root causes of why. For decades, there have been community groups in Oregon that have faced a lack of fair or adequate representation, and although this has improved, there is much progress to be made. Additionally, we must understand there is a connection between the sentiments voters hold in feeling they must vote strategically and the trends of candidates winning with far less than a majority, as a direct outcome of how the current system is designed. Simply put, the "choose one" system was created a century ago to serve a purpose that no longer benefits all of us.

I want to uplift the resounding call that Oregonians are ready for systems change to our elections, which will ultimately provide more incentive for them to participate and deliver outcomes of better representation. The coalition to pass House Bill 2004 is composed of over 35 organizations from across Oregon who are invested in creating a more reflective democracy for the people who live here. From organizations that serve rural and tribal communities like the Rural Organizing Project and Tribal Democracy Project; to labor unions that represent workers statewide like SEIU, AFSCME Council 75, AFT, and PCUN; to organizations that represent communities of color like Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, the Native American Youth and Family Action Fund, the Latino Community Association, the Urban League, and many others.



As you consider House Bill 2004, I urge you to weigh the organizational support behind this effort that is a mirror of thousands of Oregonians and help us create a more reflective, participatory, and effective democracy.

Thank you for your time.

Sol Mora,
Advocacy Director