

Dear members of the House Committee on Rules,

I am writing to express my opposition to Oregon House Bill 3509, which proposes the implementation of ranked-choice voting (RCV) for all statewide elections. While the goal of the bill is to improve our democratic process, I believe that implementing RCV would be a step in the wrong direction.

One of the main concerns with RCV is its complexity. RCV requires voters to rank candidates in order of preference, which can be confusing and time-consuming for many voters. This is especially true in any contest with many candidates, resulting in an exponentially large ballot that resembles a Sudoku puzzle. Here's an example from a mayoral election from the other Portland:

Official Ballot
General Municipal Election
Portland, Maine
November 8, 2011

CITY CLERK

A. To vote, complete the oval(s) next to your choice(s), like this:
B. Rank Candidates for Mayor in order of choice, see special instructions below.
C. To vote for a write-in candidate, write the person's name in the write-in space and fill in an oval next to the name.
D. If you make a mistake, do not erase; ask for a new ballot.

For Mayor No more than one oval per column. No more than one oval per candidate.
Four Year Term
(Rank candidates in order of choice)

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	6th Choice	7th Choice	8th Choice	9th Choice	10th Choice	11th Choice	12th Choice	13th Choice	14th Choice	15th Choice
Bragdon, Charles E. 31 Marjory South	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Brennan, Michael F. 49 Washington Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bryant, Peter G. 18 Stark Drive, Bertha #19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carmona, Ralph C. 156 North Street #1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dodge, Richard A. 1281 Forest Avenue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Duson, Jill C. 192 Federal Avenue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eder, John M. 101 Gray Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Haadow, Hamza A. 1 Coast Lane	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lapchick, Jodie L. 7 Grafton Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marshall, David A. 41 Pine Street #1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mavodones, Nicholas M. Jr. 79 Cheaney Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Miller, Markos S. 12 Atlantic Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rathband, Jed 8 Everett Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strimling, Ethan K. 214 Spring Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vail, Christopher L. 1119 Washington Avenue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

PLEASE CONTINUE VOTING ON OTHER SIDE

Special Instructions: Rank Candidates for Mayor in order of choice.

- Fill in the first oval to the right of your 1st choice candidate.
- Fill in the second oval to the right of your 2nd choice candidate.
- Continue until you have ranked all of your choices.
- You may rank as many or as few candidates as you wish.
- Fill in no more than one oval per candidate.
- Fill in no more than one oval per column.

Any vertical or horizontal line will result in this being a spoiled ballot with RCV.

In contrast, the STAR (Score Then Automatic Runoff) voting system is much simpler and more intuitive. With STAR voting, voters simply rate each candidate on a scale of 0 to 5, and the candidate with the highest average score is automatically entered into a runoff with the candidate who received the second-highest score. Signatures are being gathered to put STAR on the ballot via petition 2024-011.

Another issue with RCV is that it can lead to strategic voting. Voters may feel compelled to rank a less-preferred candidate higher in order to prevent their least-preferred candidate from winning. This can be especially problematic in elections with more than two candidates, where the outcomes can be unpredictable and difficult to anticipate (see: the recent Alaska election). STAR voting avoids this issue by allowing voters to give each candidate a score that reflects their true level of support, including, when appropriate, the same level of support.

In conclusion, while I appreciate the goal of improving our democratic process, I do not believe that implementing ranked-choice voting is the best way to achieve this goal. I urge you not to move HB 3509 forward and let petition 2024-011 bring STAR to voters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Damien Erlund
5729 SE 46th Ave
Portland Oregon