

March 15, 2023

Representative Fahey, and the members of the House Rules Committee,

My name is Anna Munson, I have lived in Salem OR. For over 40 yrs. My husband is a 100% disabled Viet Nam Vet.

I am here to speak in opposition to HB2004, Rank Choice Voting.

As one who has worked in the election's office, I am concerned about the confusion and cost that Rank Choice Voting will have. Having to rank or choose multiple candidates can be a very daunting for people. In studies where Rank Choice Voting is **done** findings are that, **it actually decreases voter participation**. If five candidates are running, but the voter ranks only three, and all three are eliminated **prior to the last round**. In effect, their ballot doesn't figure in the outcome, **and this disenfranchises voters**.

Alaska implemented RCV in 2020 and is now seriously moving to repeal it after last year's election. WE should learn from their experiment and not make the **move** to change to RCV.

**Governor Jerry Brown Jr. (D) of California** in 2016, vetoed a bill to expand ranked choice voting in his state, saying it was "overly complicated and confusing" and "deprives voters of a genuinely informed choice."

A study published in 2015 that reviewed 600,000 **votes cast** using ranked choice voting in four local elections found that **"the winner in all four elections receive[d] less than a majority of the total votes cast."**

It also risks ballot exhaustion, which happens when voters rank too few candidates or there are too many choices-- it distorts the intent of the citizen in casting their ballot.

Can you imagine having to rank and vet 21 gubernatorial candidates as we had in our last election cycle? In RCV winners **"evolve"** through a process, **not a majority choice**.

There is a total reliance on computer programming, **costing each taxpayer with no improvement in election results or efficiency**. // There is be no way to check or audit the results.// Our Attorney General openly admitted that our current

electronic voting systems can be compromised and are vulnerable to attack which diminishes our most precious voting right; one for which my husband gave his service and health.

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) are on record as opposing Rank Choice Voting for a number of reasons.

1. Rank Choice Voting. between multiple counties would become more complicated removing final tallying from **county election officials**.
2. The OACC stated in an opposition letter that **“We are concerned that this reform is setting clerks up to fail in an already hostile environment and would further erode the confidence and transparency in Oregon elections.”**

In conclusion, Rank Choice Voting would be more **expensive**-- requiring more equipment and manpower.

The increased workload would extend even longer the time an election would be certified.

The voter participation would **decrease** due to increased difficulty in vetting candidates and the issues--creating voter exhaustion, --**With no actual gain: in improving voter trust, transparency, or efficiency of the election process.**

In Listening to testimonies, I realize, as should you, that there is a lack of voting among all age groups, young and old. Changing the mechanism of our voting system will not change that. If we don't get to the real reason/the root cause of why. Why people of all eligible ages choose not to vote—one reason is lack of trust in the system, no accountability or auditability of this system; no transparency.

Unless you deal with these issues people are not going to bother in Oregon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna