

Submitter: ralph howell  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

I oppose HB2004 a bill best named the interminable incumbency act.

California Governor Jerry Brown vetoed a ranked choice voting scheme in his state by accurately stating it was "overly complicated and confusing" and that it "deprives voters of genuinely informed choice". All true.

This scheme further disenfranchises voters from a say in the final result because, unlike a standard run-off election if you do not rank a candidate initially you have no vote in the succeeding rounds of voting. What this means is...if I am faced with, say, 5 candidates, one of whom I consider acceptable and the other 4 criminals, I will still have to vote for the criminals...because otherwise I will be disenfranchised. This is obviously not a way to have a more thorough choice as is advertised. A run-off allows me that option ranked choice voting does not..

Among a plethora of remaining reasons to not do ranked choice voting is that it has been shown to suppress voter turn-out. Of course that may be the politician dream - "we can finally get something done if we just didn't have to deal with these citizens" who may object to lawmakers exercising their power at whim though an unrestrained, pathologic melee of unwarranted regulations and self-serving acts that consistently harm the Oregonians they purport to represent.