

Submitter: Kevin Green
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2004

I am in support of HB2004 and a change to the use of Ranked Choice Voting. A primary goal of democracy is to enable the people's voices to be heard and the voter's will to be recognized. The RCV "instant run-off" in 2nd and subsequent rounds of counting will increase the ability of voters to have their voices heard in several ways. First, it provides voters the opportunity to identify their preferences across a selection of candidates, not just from two likely winners. Second, by ensuring candidates are elected by the majority, not a plurality. Over time this will weaken the stranglehold that the two party system has on our State by providing incentives to work with other parties and towards the middle, hence a third way in which voters will have more voice. Fourth, this will enable more parties and more diverse candidates to have a voice in elections. Ultimately, if voters feel they are heard, participation in our democracy will increase, and government will be less polarized and work more effectively for its constituents.

An example of a similar system is used in Ireland, where there are more numerous and more active minor parties campaigning and winning seats in local and national government.