

Submitter: Ben Barefield  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

My name is Ben Barefield and I live in Bend. I am writing to share my strong support for HB 2004, which will establish ranked choice voting statewide and help ensure all Oregonians are represented in our democracy.

Ranked choice voting comes with a wide range of benefits to all citizens, regardless of their political orientation. It creates more room for people to effectively support the issues they care about, and has been shown to reduce political polarization and negative campaigning. It allows candidates to discuss issues in a nuanced way, showing support for the things they care about instead of attacking their singular opponent.

I also urge you to not let finding the perfect form of ranked choice voting stand in the way of the incremental improvement of moving to a ranked choice voting system at all.

I am not alone in my support of this bill. This legislation is supported by a coalition of over 35 organizations, including culturally-specific organizations, labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, rural communities, youth-empowering organizations, and good government groups. It is used in other States in the U.S.A. and many other countries as their primary form of voting.

Ranked choice voting is a proven solution and Oregon's next step as a leader in election reform. Please support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,  
Ben Barefield  
Bend, OR  
He/Him