



RE: Support Statewide Ranked Choice Voting, HB 2004  
House Committee on Rules

**March 23, 2023**

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Caroline and I am with Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan dedicated to bringing more voices into our elections and greater diversity to our government.

As a longtime Pacific Northwest resident, I have felt such pride in Oregon's long-standing leadership in making voting more accessible to all Oregonians – from mail-in ballots to automatic voter registration, and most recently, accepting ballots as late as 8pm on Election Day. I have very fond memories of sitting around the dining room table with my parents as a young adult and pouring over the voter pamphlet booklet as I made my choices.

However, even as I made those choices, I was aware of the limited power my vote truly had, especially in a crowded race. Even as a young voter I felt pressured to vote for the candidate that had the better chance of winning, instead of feeling empowered to vote for a candidate that I truly wanted. Over the years, this frustration has been constant. Each election season, my community bemoans how often our options truly feel limited.

**Ranked choice voting is a proven improvement to our democracy that would help give voters more power in the electoral process by allowing them to rank candidates in order of preference.** Instead of leaving voters discouraged, it empowers them to actually vote their values and helps ensure that the candidate with the most support gets elected.

**Ranked choice voting will lead to more reflective elected bodies for Oregonians from every community.** With a [lineup of over 35+ organizations](#) that endorse HB 2004, it's clear to see that many communities in Oregon understand and support how ranked choice voting would make a difference. From the Coalition of Communities of Color and NextUp Action Fund, to SEIU and the Tribal Democracy Project, to Oregon Wild and the Community Alliance of Tenants, ranked choice voting would benefit candidates and voters of color, young people, rural communities, renters, and working class people alike.



**Ranked choice voting already has growing momentum here in Oregon, with use in Benton County and Corvallis and recent adoption in Portland and Multnomah County.** HB 2004 is Oregon's opportunity to take the next step in voting access and to help ensure local communities have access to standardized implementation and voter education resources they need.

At a time when voting rights are getting taken away across the country, ranked choice voting will help ensure Oregon's next step to help secure a more democratic and accessible election system that supports more reflective representation for all communities throughout Oregon.

I urge you to support HB 2004 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

Caroline Phillips, she/her  
Oregon Ranked Choice Voting Advocates