April 8th, 2023

The Ways and Means Committee
HB 2004

I support Rank Choice Voting.

However, I strongly recommend we amend the House Bill 2004 to include the following three sentences:

Rank Choice Voting would abolish traditional primaries and have all candidates run on a single Open Primary ballot regardless of party.

*The top **four** finishers would advance to the General election regardless of their party affiliation for federal and state partisan offices, and the General election would use Rank Choice Voting to select the winner.*

In addition, a top four finisher would need to exceed 2% of the total votes in their Primary election to move into the General election.

The goal should be in establishing straightforward mechanics for a Rank Choice type of election.

This unique Rank Choice Voting model solves many negative issues that have occurred in other jurisdictions.

This model produces elections that are straight forward to execute and will yield tabulations that are quick and uncomplicated.

Since it is an OPEN primary, every jurisdiction/precinct has an identical ballot, reducing ballot formats and costs, and simplifying tabulations.

Every Oregonian can participate in the Primary and each would get a single vote per race.
Likewise, every Oregonian can participate in the General Election and use Rank Choice Voting to select the winner.

Of Note:

Oregon Registered Voters   1/12/2023 (from Oregon S.O.S.)

Democrat	1,012,206	33.95 %
Republican	731,273	24.53 %
Neither Dem. nor Rep.	1,237,693	41.52 %
Total	2,981,172	

This is very similar to the Alaskan model except for the 2% threshold requirement, which would shorten the candidate list on the ballot in some races.
It has been reported that Alaska created their election process and software for $4.1 million.
(This may give you a ballpark idea for the cost.)

In the name of the simplification, economy, and inclusiveness - we need to move to this model.

This amendment to HB 2004 will simplify Rank Choice Voting for the citizens of Oregon.

When we move to Rank Choice Voting, we need to be successful immediately.

With enthusiasm,

Tom Archer