

Hello and good morning,

My name is Sara Wolk, Executive Director of the Equal Vote Coalition, a nonpartisan nonprofit working to ensure true equality in the vote. Our organization has not yet taken a position on this bill, so I'll be testifying on my own behalf today, though many of my opinions do represent our official positions.

The original version of HB 3166 focuses on creating a Top 5 Unified Primary. Something we strongly support in theory. Like all voting reforms, the details matter immensely.

As others will tell you today, our current system seriously undermines the rights of Independent, non-affiliated, and minor party candidates, while fueling hyper-partisanship, two party domination, and the polarization that is currently dividing our country. The bill before us also does so without undermining the political parties and the important role they do play, and we commend the bill's authors for getting those details right.

**Our main concern is that the bill** requires upgrading to either a ranked or rated voting method for the general election, but **does not specify what voting method should be used**. The bill leaves the choice solely to the Secretary of State - giving them an enormous amount of power on a technical topic that they may or may not be well versed in.

We support voting methods which eliminate vote-splitting and the spoiler effect, including rated and ranked voting methods such as STAR Voting, Approval Voting and Ranked Robin (aka Condorcet Voting).

As many of you may know, we do not support "Ranked Choice Voting" due to a number of serious issues with the proposal that undermine voter rights, as I'll elaborate on below.

I support the inclusive approach, but strongly recommend that this bill be amended to put on some guard rails as to what that voting method might be. **Specifically I would recommend adding one provision: Require the voting method used to count all ballot data put down by voters.**

This is a simple criteria that ensures that the voting method would adequately address vote-splitting and the spoiler effect, and it also ensures that the voting method would be compatible with election security and auditing best practices, unlike last year's Measure 117, which was resoundingly defeated in part due to serious issues stemming from the fact that Ranked Choice Voting can and does ignore relevant ballot data and in doing so, introduces bias and other issues in the process.

Additionally, we would prefer if this updated voting method were used in both the Primary and the General Election. The more candidates are in a given race the more important it is to have a voting method that remains accurate with multiple candidates. As we know, traditional Plurality voting can be highly unrepresentative if there are more than two candidates, and Ranked Choice can struggle if there are multiple viable frontrunners. A Unified Primary would likely increase the number of candidates running against each other, so **it's essential that that method be accurate with a larger field of candidates.**

In conclusion, to recap, I strongly recommend that the rules committee put on some guard rails as to what that voting method might be used. **Require the new voting method to count all ballot data put down by voters.**

Thank you for your time,  
Sara Wolk  
Eugene, OR