



Oregon Association of County Clerks

oacclerks.org

Contact: Rob Bovett
OACC Legal Counsel
oaccrob@gmail.com
541-270-7414

March 15, 2023

Written Testimony before the House Rules Committee in Opposition to House Bills 2004 and 3509

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and
Representatives Nosse, Scharf, Valderrama, and Wallan,

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) asks for a careful and thoughtful approach to any legislation that chooses to establish Rank Choice Voting in the State of Oregon. For a number of reasons, county clerks are opposed to the passage of Rank Choice Voting this legislative session, including:

- RCV makes for a more complicated primary.
- Reconciling RCV between multiple counties is complicated and will remove final tallying from county election officials.
- The difficult task placed on Election Officials seeking to reconcile the number of ballots accepted and tallied when multiple ballot pages/sheets are sent to each voter (many voters only return the ballot pages with the contests that are of interest to them).
- There are substantial costs involved with implementing RCV.
- Current public confidence in elections is low, and the complications involved with RCV have the potential to fuel conspiracy theories and allegations related to lack of transparency.

OACC has serious concerns with implementation of RCV, especially as proposed in these two bills. We are concerned that this reform is setting clerks up to fail in an already hostile environment and would further erode the confidence and transparency in Oregon elections. OACC is more than willing to participate in a work group or task force to find a more workable path to move forward with RCV. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on House Bills 2004 and 3509.