

From: Ed Diehl for Oregon <ed@eddiehl.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 2:24 PM
To: SOS Elections * SOS <elections.sos@sos.oregon.gov>
Subject: Testimony regarding the LR403 Explanatory Statement - Ranked Choice Voting

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the Explanatory Statement for LR403 (2024-403 HB 2004) which has recently been assigned as Measure 117.

The Explanatory Statement says: "The candidate receiving the fewest votes in each round is defeated and the defeated candidate's votes are assigned to the voter's next highest-ranked candidate. This process continues until a candidate receives a majority of votes."

The claim that the winner will have a majority of votes is false. Some voters will have been eliminated/exhausted/spoiled in the tabulation process and RCV only ensures the winner has a majority of REMAINING votes.

Some voters whose other down ballot preferences could have made a difference if they'd been counted are ignored and the ultimate RCV winner may be opposed by a majority of voters who preferred another candidate over the RCV winner.

In addition, **the explanatory statement makes no mention of the fact that the measure would revoke the authority of each county to tabulate elections and would require centralized tabulation under the SOS.** As such, this measure, if enacted, would undermine trust in elections and undermine chain of custody. It would also make errors more likely to happen and harder to catch. This is a hugely significant change to our elections process, and voters deserve to be informed!

Finally, **the OR Supreme Court has ruled that the RCV ballot title is false and misleading in its use of the word majority** and that they need to make it clear that it's a "majority" of remaining active votes in the final round - not counting exhausted ballots. This ballot title and explanatory statement are, in my opinion, violating the OR Supreme Court order.

In short, the Explanatory Statement for LR403 contains false information, is missing information vital for voters to make an informed decision and is violating the recent OR Supreme Court ruling. For these reasons I urge a re-write of the Explanatory Statement.

Sincerely,

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