



PRESS RELEASE, September 2nd 2022: The Equal Vote Coalition is excited to announce the launch of a statewide STAR Voting for Oregon ballot initiative, building on Oregon's legacy as a leader and pioneer in electoral reform. If the petition is successful, the initiative will be on the November 2024 ballot, and if adopted, STAR Voting would become the default voting method for all local, statewide, and presidential elections in Oregon.

In STAR Voting, voters score candidates from zero up to five stars, showing their preferences and their level of support for the options. Ballots are counted in a two-step process where the two highest-scoring candidates advance, and your full vote automatically goes to the finalist you prefer. As the default, STAR would eliminate primaries for nonpartisan offices, streamlining the process and saving money.

"I am excited about what this can do for Oregon's voting system and look forward to working with its broad, passionate base of advocates," remarked chief petitioner, Representative Zach Hudson. Multnomah County and Portland Charter Review Commissioners Annie Kallen and Bryan Lewis are also chief petitioners on the initiative.

"Our current process is plagued with vote-splitting and spoilers and breaks if there are more than two candidates in a given race. This leads to a whole slew of toxic incentives and hyper-polarization, which in turn inflates the influence of money in politics, and creates barriers to entry," explained Equal Vote Coalition Executive Director Sara Wolk.

STAR Voting was invented in Oregon and several political parties now use STAR for elections at the local and statewide levels. If adopted, Oregon will be the first state to use STAR Voting for municipal elections. Just as Oregon was first in the nation to pioneer vote by mail, automatic voter registration, and the ballot initiative itself, Oregon STAR advocates hope to lead on voting reform with a modern, science-backed voting method that delivers.

"I believe in STAR because it will enable the people of Oregon to boldly vote their conscience without reservations or second guessing," said Lewis. "STAR creates the voting, campaigning, and politics we want and deserve."

"I'm excited about STAR Voting because it really gets to the heart of what's wrong with our elections," added Kallen. "Right now, people can't vote their conscience without wasting their vote. Ranked Choice Voting is supposed to solve that problem, but it maintains the root problems behind strategic voting and wasted votes, and requires centralized tabulation, which is less secure and transparent. STAR Voting goes further to make sure all votes are counted equally, and it can be tabulated locally."

Learn more: starvoting.org

contact: press@equal.vote