



**PRESS RELEASE, June 22nd 2023:** The STAR Voting project is launching a new STAR Voting for Eugene 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 May 2024 ballot, and if adopted, Eugene would become the first jurisdiction to adopt STAR Voting for public elections.

The Eugene initiative pairs with a statewide ballot initiative that has been collecting signatures since late last year and would make STAR Voting the default voting method for all elections, including statewide, federal, and presidential elections in Oregon.

In STAR Voting, voters score candidates from zero up to five stars, so they are able to easily show their preference order for the candidates as well as how much or how little they like them. The two highest-scoring candidates are finalists, and your full vote automatically goes to the finalist you prefer. The finalist with the most votes wins. There's no need for a primary for nonpartisan offices, so STAR Voting would streamline the process and start saving money within a few election cycles.

Americans are sick of toxic, hyper-polarized elections, and Eugene voters are in a position to lead on this issue. STAR Voting was invented in Eugene at the Equal Vote Coalition's 2014 conference, which brought together leaders working on voting reform from around the country. The goal was to find a reform that could go further to deliver on the promises of Ranked Choice Voting while addressing known issues with the 150-year-old concept.

"STAR Voting ensures representative outcomes, empowers voters, levels the playing field, and provides a simple, common-sense solution to an age-old problem." said Eugene Chief Petitioner and Equal Vote Coalition Executive Director Sara Wolk.

"I'm excited about STAR Voting because it really gets to the heart of what's wrong with our elections," added Annie Kallen, Chief Petitioner for the statewide initiative and President of the Equal Vote Coalition. "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, wastes 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 using our current infrastructure."

It's rare that an opportunity like this comes along where a small city can become a model for the rest of the country and lead on such a critical issue. Eugene has an incredible opportunity to make a difference and pilot a better way to vote.

Learn more: [starvoting.org](https://starvoting.org)

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