

House Elections Committee,

My name is Hayden Maples (unaffiliated) and I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 2013.

I appreciate the spirit of the bill in trying to ensure there is majority support for statewide office holders, but am concerned about the increased time and significant expense associated with runoff elections. Shortly after elections last November I wrote to my state representatives encouraging consideration of Ranked Choice Voting and would propose that as an alternative to the dedicated runoff process described in HB 2013.

Ranked Choice Voting (also known as Instant Runoff) allows voters to rank their preferences on a ballot and has a procedure to use those rankings in the case no candidate receives 50% of the 1st choice vote. Basically if my preferred candidate is the least popular overall, they are eliminated and my 2nd choice is then taken into consideration between remaining candidates.

Again, this helps reach a majority preference among voters while avoiding the additional tax dollars, campaign spending, and month-long delays in final results that come with a separate runoff election. I also believe Ranked Choice Voting allows the electorate to more accurately express their opinion without concern of spoiling the election or wasting their vote. That leads to higher engagement and could help provide valuable feedback to elected officials about the priorities and preferences of the citizens they represent. I believe these factors are major reasons why Ranked Choice Voting is gaining popularity and usage of this process is increasing across the country.

Thank you for your consideration,
Hayden Maples