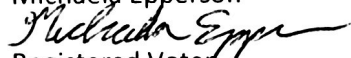


To whom it may concern,

Ranked choice voting would increase elected officials' accountability to their constituents. It would give constituents more of a sense of having a real voice in their government and would increase voter turnout, as they wouldn't have to fear "wasting" their votes. Any elected official who has a sincere intention of serving ALL of the eligible voters in their constituency should be in favor of a transition to ranked choice voting. Interfering with the autonomy of local governments with the thinly veiled intention of limiting voters' options would only degrade the trust we are able to have in our state government and in our democracy. I understand it may seem complicated; I understand this transition may take time and there may be some hiccups along the way. The same could have been said once for electronic ballot counting machines, for voting by mail, for even having a democracy at all, but we still took these steps when it was time to take them. This is the next step. And to be frank, if anyone in office doesn't see any clear or discernable benefit to ranked choice voting, it might be that that person isn't confident they are the kind of civil servants their constituents would willingly choose but for them being "the lesser of two evils." There are other ways you could address that, such as listening to and engaging with your voter base and possibly rethinking some policies. However, supporting this bill isn't a good look for anyone. You might find that your voters who would otherwise have supported you are unwilling to tolerate it.

Sincerely,

Michaela Epperson



Registered Voter