Testimony Against SB0493

Please vote against SB0493.

This bill would mandate ranked choice voting for President in the 2028 primary election for each political party as an experiment. Although not explicitly stated, it tasks the State Board of Elections to develop a voter education campaign about how to do ranked-choice voting prior to the election. However, it does not state how the ranked-choice voting should take place.

There are various methods. Should we assume that the State Board would decide which method to use? I dislike having appointed staff make that selection.

After the election, the bill tasks the State Board to survey the voters to gauge their satisfaction with the new voting process. The bill does not state how large a sample would be required and whether it would be purely random or require sampling x percent of the voters in each of the 24 jurisdictions or how many of each party would be selected. Again, surveys can be skewed to get the answers sought and the parameters should not be left to political appointees.

In other bills calling for this type of voting, if one does not rank every candidate, one's ballot is rejected. Also, unlike the MVP voting in baseball where the first place choice gets 5 points, the second place choice gets 3 points for second, and third choice gets 1 point, and the others get zero with the winner getting the most points, other bills calling for ranked-choice voting do not give any weighting to a first choice versus lesser ranked candidates.

Also, how would write-in candidates be handled with ranked choice voting as not all ballots would have a write-in choice to handle massive write-in situation as was done for President Biden in the New Hampshire primary?

Other bills have complicated algorithms to allocate votes to candidates until one receives a majority. We already have trust issues that the software correctly applies the voting in the current process.

Please vote against SB0493.

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