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Testimony in OPPOSITION to H-7380: Prohibits the use of ranked choice voting in all local, state and federal public office elections.

Why I OPPOSE this bill:

I am in favor of ranked choice voting because too often, our leaders are elected with less than 50% of the people in favor of them. For example when Governor McKee ran in the 2022 primary, he received 32.8% of the vote, with Foulkes receiving 29.9% and Gorbea receiving 26.2%. The other two candidates received 11%. 67% of Democrats did not want McKee to be governor but when we got to the election in November he was our option. I believe that if we had ranked choice voting he would not have been our candidate. We could have ranked our choice and been able to eliminate the least favorite candidate.

I have heard it said that ranked choice voting is too complicated and people will be confused. Some people will be confused, some people are always confused, but I feel like if the people of Maine, Alaska and New York City can do it, so can we. We could start small with the primaries.

A bill to ban RCV (House bill 7380) should not get out of committee. There are many important issues our legislatures should spend their time and energy on instead of a bill that would ban something that doesn't even exist. And since the Independent Man stands on top of the capitol, the legislature should not be deciding how elections for leaders of Rhode Island cities and towns are elected.