

Resolution No.____: In Support of Adopting STAR Voting

Whereas, STAR voting is a user friendly voting method which better represents the will of the people. Voters score candidates from 0 up to 5 stars, according to preference and intensity of support, rather than being limited to only choosing a single candidate.¹ The two highest scoring candidates are finalists and the finalist preferred on more ballots wins; and

Whereas, STAR Voting eliminates vote splitting and the spoiler effect², and has been found by experts³ in the field to be best in class in terms of maximizing representative and accurate outcomes for voters, while incentivising honest voting, even compared to other alternative voting methods like Ranked Choice voting which only mitigate these problems⁴; and

Whereas, STAR Voting can be hand counted or automatically tabulated with simple open-sourced software. STAR Voting meets all Election Integrity best practices such as precinct summability⁵, which ensures that it is compatible with risk-limiting audits and other recommended election security protocols.

Whereas, STAR voting is highly accurate⁶ with multiple candidates in the race, which in non-partisan elections eliminates the need for traditional runoffs, saving voters, candidates and governments time and money, while ensuring more representative results by deciding elections in the general election, when voter turnout is at its highest⁷; and

Whereas, STAR voting helps ensure that candidates elected to office are preferred by a majority of voters⁸, that no votes are wasted, and that minority voters have a meaningful voice in elections, even when their favorites cannot win; and

¹ <http://equal.vote>

² “Cardinal voting methods are immune to vote splitting, since each candidate is rated independently of each other.” Poundstone, William. (2013). *Gaming the vote : why elections aren't fair (and what we can do about it)*.

³ “STAR is undeniably a top-shelf election method, and arguably the best out of all the ones I tested.” -Jameson Quinn, PhD in Statistics, Harvard.

⁴ [Ending The Hidden Unfairness In U.S. Elections](#) explains why plurality and runoff voting methods are vulnerable to vote splitting.

⁵ https://electowiki.org/wiki/Summability_criterion

⁶ <http://electionscience.github.io/vse-sim/VSE/>

⁷ “Primary elections routinely see lower and even less representative turnout than general elections.” https://ssir.org/articles/entry/increasing_voter_turnout_what_if_anything_can_be_done

⁸ https://electowiki.org/wiki/STAR_voting

Whereas, STAR Voting, like all preference voting methods, encourages coalition building and outreach beyond a candidate's core base, and thus incentivises positive campaigning while discouraging attack ads⁹; and

Whereas, STAR Voting is a hybrid of Ranked Choice and Score Voting which maximizes the benefits of both while addressing legitimate criticisms. STAR Voting improves on Ranked Choice by eliminating spoilers and exhausted ballots, and by counting all ballot data. STAR improves on Score Voting by ensuring majority preferred winners when possible. STAR Voting improves on both with higher strategic voting resiliency and more representative outcomes than either; and

Whereas, STAR Voting can be used for single or multi-winner elections and can be adapted for proportional representation; and

Whereas, The DPO recently used multi-winner gender balanced STAR Voting for the election of Oregon's presidential delegates and found that STAR voting is the only method which allows us to elect a non-binary inclusive gender-balanced list of majority preferred candidates as required by DNC, and DPO rules, without requiring voters to cast multiple ballots¹⁰; and

Whereas, Article 5 plank 29 of our party's current Platform states, "We support the enactment of voting improvements that eliminate vote splitting and more accurately reflect the preferences and will of the voters." now

Therefore, the Democratic Party of Oregon resolves as follows:

Section 1: We support efforts to adopt STAR voting at the local, statewide, and federal levels.

Section 2: To use single-winner and multi-winner STAR Voting for internal elections for the Democratic Party of Oregon.

⁹ <https://fairvote.app.box.com/v/rcv-kropf-content-analysis>

¹⁰ https://www.starvoting.us/star_dnc