



Verbal Testimony of Jason Snead
Executive Director, Honest Elections Project Action
House Bill 4707
Michigan House Election Integrity Committee
August 19, 2025

Chair Smit, Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 4707. My name is Jason Snead, executive director of Honest Elections Project Action, a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving free and fair elections. I also serve as the co-chair of the Stop RCV coalition, a nationwide network working to halt the spread of RCV.

HB 4707 is a crucial safeguard for Michigan elections. Banning the complicated scheme known as ranked-choice voting will ensure that Michigan elections are transparent, efficient, and accessible for every voter.

A national movement against RCV is gaining momentum. This year alone, six states have already banned RCV. That makes 17 states nationwide that have made RCV illegal, including [Missouri](#), where in 2024 nearly 70% of voters approved a constitutional prohibition on RCV.

Last year voters in [six states](#)—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon—overwhelmingly rejected ballot measures that sought to bring RCV to their elections. The public consensus is unmistakable: Ranked-choice voting has no place in American elections.

RCV makes every stage of the voting process more complicated. It requires an extensive public education campaign, costing taxpayers millions. [New York City](#) spent \$15 million to teach people how to vote in an RCV election, while [Maine](#) was forced to produce a 19-page guide for voters.

Even for those familiar with the system, RCV makes voting needlessly time-consuming and burdensome. Instead of selecting a single candidate, voters must rank multiple candidates for each race, including those who are fringe or unqualified. Research from MIT shows that RCV ballots take significantly longer to complete, with a “Final Five”-style system adding a full minute per race—a delay that, in aggregate, could double voting times at the polls.

Because of the complexity of RCV, errors can go undetected. The case of, Oakland, California proves this. In 2022, hundreds of votes were mistakenly eliminated and officials certified the wrong [winner](#) in a school board contest. It took months and a lawsuit to seat the true winner, but alarmingly the error was almost missed because RCV is so complex.

With RCV, any election that spans multiple jurisdictions requires centralized tabulation. That would force Michigan to make substantial changes to the way you currently tabulate ballots. Harmonizing election data across vendors and jurisdictions would require third-party software that does not currently exist. That only compounds ranked-choice voting’s risk of error and delay.



Supporters of ranked-choice voting make grand claims that RCV improves elections and moderates divisive politics. Independent studies debunk all these claims. A 2023 [study](#) by the Hubert Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota found that ranked-choice voting does not reduce political polarization, increase diversity among election officials, increase voter turnout, or decrease negative campaigning. In fact, one [study](#) of RCV in Maine found that “negative spending increased significantly...casting doubt on the claim that RCV makes campaigns more civil.”

Many jurisdictions try ranked-choice voting only to repeal it. For instance, proponents tout a Utah pilot program that recruited two-dozen cities, yet over half have [withdrawn](#) early and the pilot program is set to end altogether this year.

Michigan law must be crystal clear on this issue: any system that artificially manufactures artificial election winners should be illegal in this state.

That is why I strongly encourage passage of House Bill 4707. Passing this bill sends a powerful message: Ranked-choice voting is not permitted in Michigan—now or in the future.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions.