

ELECTION METHODS-STAR VOTING-UPDATE

STUDY TITLE AND POLICY AIM

TITLE: Election Methods Update on STAR Voting

POLICY AIM: To learn whether we can use our current Election Methods position to advocate for or against proposals for STAR voting in Oregon.

STUDY SCOPE: An examination of the STAR voting system, lasting one year or less. The goal would be to inform League members about the benefits and limitations of the STAR voting option that is being promoted by a group of advocates. It would also be to determine whether or not the League could support or should oppose adoption of STAR voting in Oregon.

WORK PLAN: The update committee would interview the group(s) that are promoting STAR voting and other groups that have examined it and compared it to Ranked-Choice voting or other systems. STAR Voting is a combination of “score” or range voting and instant run-off. The group that is promoting STAR voting is the Equal Vote Coalition: <https://www.equal.vote> . Another group that has looked at STAR voting, but believes it is not as good as Ranked Choice Voting is rankedchoiceoregon.org. A new member of the Portland League, Joe Hoffman, is a leader of this second group. The update committee could also look at Benton County’s experience with ranked choice voting and any examples when STAR voting has been tried.

INTERESTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Members of the group that discussed it who expressed an interest in helping were Donna Stewart, Donna Cohen, Joe Hoffman and Chris Cobey. Since then, Kristin Eberhard and Barbara Klein have expressed an interest in helping.

RATIONALE: If the Equal Vote Coalition is working to convince Oregonians and communities in Oregon to adopt STAR voting instead of ranked choice voting (which the LWVOR position supports), the League should have a more complete understanding of whether or not STAR Voting is an acceptable alternative. To advocate one way or another, we should know more about about the advantages and disadvantages of this voting method.