

Please vote NO and DO NOT PASS HB 1297, which would overrule local control of elections and not allow approval and ranked choice voting. On the one hand, Republicans, the majority party, claim to support local control over elections. Except when they don't. What are you afraid of? Approval voting is a new-ish approach, but a number of communities have instituted it and found it works well to show the strength of support for candidates and allows minority candidates a better chance to gain exposure and at times to win elections. We claim we want to give everyone's voice a chance. We need to mean it. The legislature and indeed any governing body does better when it hears voices from a variety of perspectives and viewpoints. It can result in better decisions and better legislation. Only allowing in a limited number of voices, perhaps mostly saying the same things over and over, truly created an echo chamber, "group think," and other undesirable outcomes. Let local control of elections continue, and allow approval and ranked choice voting in those localities that want it. Susan Dingle, District 35, voter in every election