

Michael McClellan
Raymond
LD 34

2/3/2023

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Maine Legislative Committee on Veterans and legal Affairs, I am Mike McClellan. I am a former Maine House member (125th, 126th and 127th) and I live in Raymond, Maine.

I write in support of Senator Pouliot's proposed bill, LD 34. This legislation appears simple and would go a long way to ensure our elections can again be viewed as safe and honest. Perception is so important and currently, there are many who (rightly or wrongly) view our state and national elections as tainted. One result is some people decide not to participate because they do not trust the system. Sen. Pouliot's bill would seem to solve much of the problem. Voting in elections should be for people who are eligible just as the political parties represented on your committee would require a Voter ID to attend your political conventions. If this legislation does not pass, can I assume both of your next conventions would be open without ID?

We know there was a day that politics were used to keep some people, women and minorities in particular, from voting. Those "rules" were stopped and now all have access to vote in Maine and the USA. We have rules as to who is qualified to vote and as our elected leaders, you should enforce those rules. This legislation would help you perform your duty.

A past argument that some people do not have ID's would seem to not hold water anymore. Searching lists of what you need ID for would show that any adult would need an ID to maneuver through our 2023 society. ID's can be gotten at no cost and I believe Sen. Pouliot's legislation includes an avenue to receive an ID at no cost.

I pray you affirm this for the good of Maine citizens. If we have rules/laws and do not enforce them, they are worthless and allow a perception that other rules/laws are open for discussion. I urge you to please nail this one down firmly.

Thank you for your service,
Mike