

Alex Wu
Scarborough
LD 1991

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and esteemed members of the joint standing committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

My name is Alex Wu and I am a Junior at Scarborough High School. I am asking you to vote ought to pass on LD 1991.

Rank choice voting is a better voting system than winner takes all. Ranked choice voting is constitutional. It allows voters to better express their views without regard for the highly polarized political positions today. It eliminates the idea that your vote is a waste if you vote a certain way, because your vote will always be counted in the runoff.

We have already implemented rank choice voting into general elections and state level primaries, we should implement rank choice voting into other areas of the election process as well.

I acknowledge that the Maine constitution requires state officials to be elected in a plurality, which I believe to be foolish, but I digress, that is not at the discretion of the legislature currently and our state judicial Supreme Court has already held rank choice voting in state elections to be unconstitutional. However, this bill does not use ranked choice voting, but instead includes it in the primary elections and is therefore constitutional because it does not regard the true election of governor's office. A rank choice system in even just a primary would still allow for 3rd parties to possibly obtain office though, especially because voters would not have to worry about tactical voting under rank choice primaries.

The workaround this bill achieves still implements rank choice voting in the confines of our current constitution, and I applaud that commitment to effective democracy. I also know that this bill works in the confines of our current state constitution though.

I am sure this committee already knows the value of our already implemented rank choice system, so I will leave you with this instead:

I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1991, and I urge you to amend the state constitution to allow rank choice voting for state government positions as well.