

To: Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee Members

From: Mary Anne Royal, Winterport

RE: LD 234, An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting

I wish to speak in opposition to LD 234. Numerous challenges to the Citizen Initiative Ballot Question on Ranked Choice Voting which passed in 2016 with 52% of the votes have failed to eliminate ranked choice voting in Maine. This attempt by the sponsors of the bill is yet again another attempt to interfere with the will of The People of Maine. It is a blatant tactic being promoted by far right Republicans who wish to manipulate elections in order to win without a majority. And they are attempting to do so without consulting the people of Maine. If they desire to override the voters of Maine they should look to their failed attempt to do so in the People's Veto of 2018. That ballot measure passed with 54% of the vote. In the ensuing years Ranked Choice Voting has only grown in popularity. The sponsors of this bill know this. They are attempting to subvert the will of The People of Maine. That cannot be allowed to happen. If the sponsors wish to consult The People of Maine yet again on this issue, then they may do so by using the process in place to put an Act To Eliminate Ranked Choice Voting on the 2025 state ballot for the voters to decide. To repeal the current law in this manner is a flagrant abuse of power.

It is my sincere hope that you will unanimously vote Ought Not To Pass. Yes. All of you. Your responsibility to The People of Maine is to respect and uphold the laws they have passed.