

Testimony of Harry Roth
Project Manager, Stop Ranked-Choice Voting Coalition

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Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony.

In November of last year, Alaska came within 743 votes of repealing ranked-choice voting. The grassroots repeal movement started shortly after Alaska's first RCV election. Voters were frustrated by delayed results and confusing ballots, so they decided to take action.

To beat the repeal, ranked-choice voting proponents were forced to spend \$15 million, while the repeal side spent a small fraction of that. Another repeal ballot measure will likely appear on the ballot in 2026. Maine now has the chance to become the first state to repeal ranked-choice voting after becoming the first state to adopt it.

Maine residents have dealt with weeks of delays and technological issues since implementing this convoluted system. The results were delayed by weeks when Representative Golden and Austin Theriault were forced into a runoff during a close contest in Maine's Congressional District 2. And a memory stick failure caused delays two years prior, in 2022.

Opposition to ranked-choice voting isn't a partisan issue either. RCV bills have been vetoed by two California governors, Jerry Brown and Governor Newsom. Former Governor Jerry Brown had this to say after vetoing an RCV bill in 2016:

"In a time when we want to encourage more voter participation, we need to keep voting simple. Ranked-choice voting is overly complicated and confusing. I believe it deprives voters of genuinely informed choice."

In the last three years, eleven states have banned RCV to protect their voters and the integrity of their elections. I hope you consider this when deciding on whether to repeal ranked-choice voting.

Thank you again for your time.