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LD 234

I am a retired businessman long active in education reform and state governance issues. I was a member of the Committee organized by Independent Senator Dick Woodbury to support Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) when first proposed and passed as a citizen's initiative in 2016. I am testify to oppose LD 234, an act to eliminate RCV.

Since its inception RCV has worked well to ensure that winning candidates have more than 50% of the vote, in other works it functions like an instant runoff to ensure that majority rules. RCV eliminates elections where thirty or forty percent pluralities are successful. RCV encourages more candidates to enter the process because its approach eliminates spoilers. RCV encourages candidates to not simply "play to their base" because all candidates need to be mindful of the importance of being a second choice. This approach works as demonstrated in Maine, in Alaska, and in many cities across the country. In fact there is a powerful documentary called "Majority Rules" available on Apple TV that depicts the Alaska experience, which has been quite remarkable.

We should be expanding RCV to our Gubernatorial and local elections. I understand this Legislature is considering that. I applaud that effort.

Thank you.

Ron Bancroft