

Pamela Vose
OWLS HEAD
LD 234

TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: February 3, 2024

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

My name is Pamela Vose and I live in Owls Head.

I am writing to oppose LD-23r An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting.

My experience with RCV is as follows. I collected signatures to get the initiative on the ballot for the election in which it was passed. During this time, I had opportunity to hear the initial opinions of many voters in my hometown. The response was largely positive and the majority of people I spoke with expressed a desire for a system that would more fairly represent the will of the majority of voters. This was born out in the election when RCV was approved. My second experience with the public and RCV was at the polls in the first election in which RCV was used. I was collecting signatures at my local polling place close by where the ballots are deposited and therefore had the opportunity to watch and hear people interact with the election staff during the voting process. I was pleased to see that only a few people even questioned the staff about the ballot, and those questions were apparently easily answered because the conversations were short. After leaving the voting booth many people were commenting that it was easier than they had been led to believe it would be and during the time I was there I heard many positive responses. I did not hear one person say it was too difficult to use. My own experience is that it is an easy system to use and most important, there is no longer a possibility for a winner with a small plurality to win because of multiple candidates running. Every candidate has a fair chance to be elected because this system doesn't favor any Party. It favors the voters. I strongly believe that the will of the voters should be respected and RCV should be expanded, not removed, and this is why I strongly oppose this bill.