



February 10, 2025

Re: LD 349

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and the distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

The Mainers For Modern Elections coalition is in strong opposition to LD 349.

Mainers for Modern Elections is a non-partisan coalition of advocacy groups that believes a functioning democracy requires easy access to the ballot for eligible voters, especially from marginalized voting populations; strong voter protections; and confidence in a secure, modern, representative, and well-resourced elections system. The coalition advocates for statutorily protected voting rights, structural democracy reforms that expand voter access, and investment in and modernization of election administration and implementation. We pursue these policies through direct and grassroots advocacy and by educating and providing resources to public officials and coalition members.

For over 50 years, same-day voter registration has ensured every Maine citizen has the opportunity to vote without unnecessary barriers. Same-day voter registration support was affirmed by the people of Maine on the ballot in 2011. We are proud of Maine's high voter turnout and see same-day voter registration as a critical aspect of our state's voter participation.

Same-day voter registration is safe, secure, and effective. With Maine's Central Voter Registration system, voters are able to register and vote in one municipality, eliminating any threat of fraud or discrepancy. When voters register to vote on Election Day, just like registration on any other day of the year, they are required to show proof of residency and citizenship. The majority of Maine voters have been using same-day voter registration for the entirety of their voting time. Repealing this tried and true practice would be jarring and decrease voting participation. This repeal would disproportionately impact voters who move frequently and voters of color¹.

The right to vote is a fundamental aspect of our democracy and same-day voter registration makes it more accessible to voters. We urge you to vote against LD 349.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

¹<https://www.umass.edu/news/article/new-study-finds-states-same-day-voter-registration-have-higher-black-and-latinx>

Members of the Mainers for Modern Elections Coalition include:

[ACLU of Maine](#)

[AARP of Maine](#)

[Center for Secure and Modern Elections](#)

[Common Cause](#)

[Defend Our Health](#)

[Gateway Community Services](#)

[League of Women Voters of Maine](#)

[Maine AFL-CIO](#)

[Maine Citizens for Clean Elections](#)

[Maine Conservation Voters](#)

[Maine Education Association](#)

[Maine Equal Justice](#)

[Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition](#)

[Maine People's Alliance](#)

[Maine SEA, SEIU Local 1989](#)

[Maine Women's Lobby](#)

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