

Dover-Foxcroft
April 22, 2025

Senator Craig Hickman, Representative Laura Supica, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

My name is Eric Boothroyd, a retired citizen residing in Dover-Foxcroft, and I wish to submit this letter to the committee **in support of SP 660/LD 1666**, An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections, the Office of Governor, State Senator, and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes.

I believe that our elected officials should reflect the support of a majority of their constituents, and Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) provides this. In expanding RCV to the general election of State officers, we can ensure that the successful candidate has the support of most voters. RCV also provides the voter with the choice to select the candidate they most prefer, even if that candidate is an underdog, without having to deliberate how to strategically cast their single ballot so as not to advantage a particular party. RCV also offers a less expensive option to other majority support initiatives like additional run-off elections.

A SurveyUSA poll found that 57 percent of Maine voters supported the ability to rank candidates. Detractors are free to not rank candidates and cast a single vote if they don't like the system. I support all initiatives to increase and maintain the use of Ranked-Choice Voting. I urge the committee to vote "ought to pass" and let the legal system revisit the constitutionality, if it comes to that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eric Boothroyd