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Winthrop
LD 1666

2025.04.22 testimony in favor of Ranked Choice Voting for the Office of Maine Governor, members of the Maine Senator, and Members of the Maine House of Representatives.

I believe that the Governor, Senators and House Members, being the top elected official of their respective jurisdictions, can only justify being elected to those positions by receiving the support of the majority of the votes cast. They should not be elected with less support.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) assures that result. The winner of an RCV election is declared, once that candidate has achieved votes in support which have reached that majority.

Ranked Choice Voting does not permit a candidate with less than a majority of vote support, but who has the most votes because the votes for the other candidates are split, to be elected. RCV requires, in that instance, a review of the preference of the voters, as expressed on their ballots, until there is majority vote support for a candidate, who is, then, the winner of the election.

Maine has already approved RCV as the appropriate election method in Maine. The Maine Law Court previously decided that the Maine Constitution had provisions which did not permit RCV to elect our Governor or Legislators. The Statute before you is written to address the Law Court's concern, and to result in the use of RCV for those offices.

RCV uses a ballot style which already exists in Maine elections. We use that ballot for President of the US and US Congresspersons. RCV relies on vote counting software which already exists in Maine. Ballot style and vote counting using RCV is nothing new.