

Ann Dodd-Collins
Portland
LD 1666

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My Name is Ann Dodd-Collins and I live in Portland. I am writing to you in support of LD 1666, "An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes".

When Maine voters approved Ranked Choice Voting in 2016, many of us believed that RCV would apply in all Maine elections. I know I did. After all, wasn't the RCV referendum triggered by the fact that Paul LePage won the governorship not once, but twice, with less than 50% of the vote?

Ranked Choice Voting should be used in all races. That simplifies the voting process. RCV gives voters like me the opportunity to vote for the person we think is best for the job, without fear that our vote will lead to the person we don't want for the job getting in by default ... and with less than 50% of the vote.

I understand the Alaska Supreme Court ruled in August 2024 that RCV elections comply with plurality requirements, and their decision states that the Maine Supreme Court got this question wrong in its 2017 advisory opinion, which prevented the use of RCV for legislative and gubernatorial general elections. It is time for the Maine Supreme Court to reconsider its advisory opinion.

I urge the committee to support this bill.
Thank you.