

John Soifer
China
LD 1666

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to encourage and request that you invest in our communities, State and democracy with the RVC legislation L.D.1666.

I am writing as citizen, former business owner, father of two successful sons who left Maine for more opportunities, twenty-five year special education and at-risk students' teacher who retired at 70, as well as a current RSU 18 school board member. I am an activist for improving our society. It is important that we do improvements in our democratic process; primarily to increase involvement. Currently, many citizens are frustrated, demoralized and fed up with voting. They feel their vote really doesn't count, they have busy lives and so, why bother to vote, it seems like a rigged game run by money, etc.

The real benefit of Ranked Choice Voting is democracy so more people will see and accept the "winner" as being chosen by the majority. Yes, the minority has a vote and say, but the declared winner will have at least 50% and the minority vote helped elect to outcome.

Additionally, RCV will create increased participation and that will lead to more inclusive elections. There is data that it also reduces the impact of extremist on both the right and left of the political spectrum since it has shown that all the candidates need to appeal to a larger group of voters than only their base.

What isn't in L.D. 1666 that really should be in it is a ranked choice, all candidate primary! Then the two highest candidates would be the choice for the general election. This would considerably change the partisanship of the tenor and tone of primaries as well to reduce the likelihood of either party selecting extremists.

Considering all the positive sides of RCVing, why not have it for more of the elections??? Well, there is one reason, it reduces the impact and makes it harder for lobbyist and moneyed interests controlling the outcome. Well, there is one other drawback, the loser's winning.

The winner is democracy and the people! Please pass the legislation, it is one small step to try and improve a perilous time for our democracy.

John Soifer
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