

Samuel Smithwick  
Kennebunk  
LD 1666

Thank you Chair Supica and esteemed members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to address the subcommittee today. As a historian, educator, and active civic leader, I would like to express my support for Ranked Choice Voting in Maine. As compared to current methods of electing officials in the United States, ranked-choice voting would promote more broadly popular candidates to elected office, as we have seen in local elections around the country and certainly in Australia where RCV has been utilized for over 100 years with great success, improving voter turnout and overall representation. RCV provides voters with more choices, allowing voters to express their preferences more fully and honestly, producing less polarized and negative political competition, and encourage the election of women, minority, and third party candidates without the fear that one's vote will not matter, and voices not heard.