

Testimony of Harry Roth  
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Maine Legislative Document 1666

Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit my written testimony. While the Maine House of Representatives investigates the possibility of expanding ranked-choice voting to statewide elections, you should first consider the effect it has had on federal elections.

Since implementing ranked-choice voting, Maine residents have dealt with weeks of delays and technological issues. The results were delayed by weeks when Representative Golden and Austin Theriault were forced into a runoff during a close contest in Maine's Congressional District 2 this past November. A memory stick failure also caused delays two years earlier, in 2022.

When Mainers approved ranked-choice voting in 2016, they likely expected a smooth transition. However, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court later ruled that parts of the system were unconstitutional, as multiple RCV rounds conflicted with the state constitution's requirement for certain offices to be decided by a plurality. The legislature tried but failed to resolve the issue, resulting in ranked-choice voting being used only for congressional and presidential elections.

LD1666 would change the definition of ranked-choice voting in an attempt to make it conform with state law without changing the tabulation process itself. This bill is just a clever attempt to sneak an unconstitutional law past the courts while keeping the system's structure intact.

While the Maine Legislature is debating expanding ranked-choice voting, other states are moving in the opposite direction and outlawing it. So far this year, five states—including Wyoming, West Virginia, Kansas, North Dakota, and Arkansas—have banned ranked-choice voting. I hope you will consider the effects ranked-choice voting has had on Maine and reject LD1666.

Thank you again for your time.