

Janis Petzel  
Islesboro  
LD 1666

TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman  
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal  
Affairs

April 24, 2025

RE: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

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

My testimony is in support of LD 1666. I am Janis Petzel, MD., and I live in the  
Town of Islesboro, Maine.

According to rcvresources.org, Rank choice voting (RCV) has been adopted in a wide  
range of jurisdictions across the USA, 62 of them as of 2022, from primaries to state  
and municipal elections. RCV allows for a sort of instant run off if no candidate gets  
more than 50% of the vote. We have seen the successful implementation of RCV for  
Federal elections in Maine.

I live in CD 2, which is well known to have a close mix of citizens. I was so relieved  
that RCV helped clarify the majority of voters' desires for Congressional leadership a  
couple of elections ago. RCV limits the "spoiler" effect of third-party candidates.  
Don't we want a wider choice of candidates without the risk of minority rule?

Indeed, experience with RCV shows that RCV cuts down on negative campaigning  
and shifts the focus back to a candidate's qualifications and ideas. In Maine, it's  
confusing that some elections use RCV and others don't.

Please fix this, for the better.

I urge you to vote ought to pass.