

Testimony 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”

Before the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

April 24, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and other members of the Committee. I am testifying today to express strong support for LD 1666, which would expand ranked-choice voting for Governor, State Senators and Representatives.

Mainers have successfully used ranked-choice voting since 2018, and passage of this bill would provide consistency and predictability for voters. As it now stands, it’s confusing and unclear to Maine voters why the state allows ranked-choice for some races and not others. Standardizing elections will simplify the process for voters and towns and honor the will of Maine citizens who voted to adopt ranked-choice voting for all state and federal elections.

Ranked-choice ensures that only candidates who a majority of Maine voters support are elected. Currently this is not the case as we have seen in races with multiple candidates. Citizens will no longer have to be concerned about “spoilers” and can vote for their favored candidate without worrying that their vote is not strategic. Further, ranked choice encourages those who are not enrolled in the two major parties to run for office, thus ranked-choice is more inclusive and encourages more people to engage in civic life. Independence in voting is a long-held Maine tradition that will be strengthened by the expansion of ranked-choice voting.

For these reasons and more, I support LD 1666 and urge you to do the same. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to all who call Maine home.

Jennifer Melville
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