

Evan Murray
Portland
LD 1666

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

Date: 4/24/2025

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

My name is Evan Murray, and I live in Portland. I'm testifying in support of LD 1666 and urging the committee to support it. As a voter, I have always hated the necessity of strategic voting to avoid vote splitting. It turns elections into a game that can be won simply by dividing the electorate instead of what they should be: a measure of what the people want.

I was incredibly excited when Maine began to use RCV, leading the way among states, and disappointed that we couldn't use it for the governor's race. We are once again likely to see several candidates, and I want any candidate we elect to have the support of the majority of Mainers. I love being able to vote my conscience without worrying that I'll hand an election to someone I strongly oppose; I love having an election method that results in winners having an actual majority.

I don't think RCV necessarily means the candidates I favor will win more often. But that's much less important to me than knowing that our next governor will be supported by at least half of the state's voters - even if I'm not in that half. That's what Mainers voted for in the first place.

I ask the committee members to support LD1666 and expand Ranked-Choice Voting as originally intended, so that we can have confidence in our democratically elected leadership.

Thank you.