

William Laliberte  
Wiscasset  
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

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

My name is William Laliberte and I live in Wiscasset. I am testifying in support of LD 1666. I support this bill because it is long past time to align the election method for all offices within our state government with the widely accepted ranked choice method. This method has been affirmed twice by Maine voters and provides a more meaningful option for voters who have felt disenfranchised by having to choose the lesser of two evils rather than a candidate whom they prefer to support. Expanding ranked choice voting to all state offices would eliminate the need for strategic voting without concern for having to split votes, something that I have found myself forced to do in many elections in my lifetime.

Ranked choice voting has worked as intended to provide a fair voice while still providing a winner with the majority of support from voters without the need to carry out a wasteful runoff election. The method should be applied to all elections of state officers. Concerns with regards to the validity of the method as presented by the Supreme Judicial Court in 2017 are non-binding and in light of the ruling by the Alaska Supreme Court in 2024 that ranked choice elections comply with plurality requirements, the decision by the Maine Supreme Court should be reconsidered. The Maine Legislature should pass the bill to expand ranked-choice voting and call for a solemn occasion, through which the Legislature can clarify that the plurality winner is the winner of the final ranked choice vote tally and not the candidate with the most first place rankings.

I urge the committee to support this bill. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Kind regards,  
William Laliberte