Justin Jacques
Jay
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,

My name is Justin Jacques, and I was born and raised in Jay. I am testifying in support of LD 1666.

I support this bill because ranked choice voting is simply a better way to run elections. It gives voters more meaningful choices, eliminates the fear of "spoiling" an outcome, and ensures our elected officials reflect the will of the majority—not just a narrow plurality. It's a system that encourages broader engagement from both candidates and voters, and one that strengthens the legitimacy of our democracy.

More than 80% of Mainers have said RCV is easy to use, and they've consistently supported it at the ballot box. Expanding it to include gubernatorial and state legislative races isn't just the next logical step—it's necessary. The Alaska Supreme Court's 2024 decision made it clear that RCV complies with constitutional standards, and it directly refutes the outdated 2017 advisory opinion that has held Maine back. That legal roadblock has no place in our democracy anymore.

The Legislature must pass LD 1666. Anything less is a step backward. Mainers deserve a voting system that is fair, accessible, and representative of their values.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Justin Jacques