

Dover-Foxcroft
May 1, 2025

Senator Craig Hickman, Representative Laura Supica, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

My name is Eric Boothroyd, a retired citizen residing in Dover-Foxcroft, and I wish to submit this letter to the committee **in strong opposition to LD 1149**, An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting.

First, when a person registers to vote, that person must declare that they are a citizen of the United States. A false declaration is punishable by law. This has been good enough for decades and decades. Has our society lost faith in a person's word? Under this bill, now we don't even trust you to be who you say you are when you present yourself to the ballot clerk without showing a photo I.D. The fact is that both State and National elections are safer and more secure than they have ever been. There is NO evidence of widespread voter fraud, despite the false claims of some people who want to sow mistrust into our election system. Recall the three recounts in Georgia in 2020 and the Cyber Ninjas in Arizona who went looking for fraud and found none. Secretary of State Shenna Bellows told me personally that there were two fraudulent ballots cast in Maine during the 2020 Presidential election. TWO! Fraudulent voting is not happening on a scale to affect outcomes. Asking for voter I.D. is unnecessary.

Second, this bill is not just about voter I.D., it's about voter suppression. Maine has taken great strides recently to make voting more accessible to more voters by expanding access to absentee ballots and making drop boxes available for those who can't mail or drop their ballots off in person. This bill limits how absentee ballots can be requested, limits the number of drop boxes, and puts I.D. requirements on the absentee voter. The acquisition of approved I.D. documents may place an additional burden on some voters, both logistically and financially. Making ballot access more restrictive is not good for democracy.

Third, LD 1149 is word-for-word identical to the referendum question coming to the November ballot. Why bother with it now? It will come before the voters anyway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eric Boothroyd