

Testimony in Opposition to LD 38, LD 397, & LD 1149

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Scott Harriman, I live in Lewiston, and I am testifying **in strong opposition to** LD 38, LD 397, and, especially, LD 1149, “An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting.”

For starters, this bill requires a photo ID in order to vote, presumably to combat some type of voter fraud, which barely occurs in our elections. Imposing barriers to exercising such a basic right as voting will only disenfranchise voters.

But this bill goes further than that.

It also restricts Mainers’ use of absentee voting and ballot drop boxes. These have proven very popular with voters, especially those who have mobility challenges or those with busy, hectic schedules and find it difficult to get to the polls in person. Here in Lewiston, voting early, voting by mail, and voting using our secure drop box have proven to be very popular options. In fact, **in the November 2024 election, 48% of Lewiston voters cast their ballots in a manner other than at the polls on Election Day.**¹

What, exactly, are this bill’s supporters trying to accomplish by restricting the availability of these highly popular voting options?

And what is the point of micromanaging municipalities’ use of drop boxes? Towns should have the flexibility to place their ballot drop box(es) in the most convenient place(s) for their citizens. Town clerks are more than capable and trustworthy enough to take the envelopes out of the box, and they should not be required to bring in extra people to do that.

Citizens ought to be given greater opportunities for participation, not fewer. They should trust that the government values their input and that it is using all available means to obtain it, rather than making changes that limit the people’s ability to make their voices heard.

Please vote **Ought Not To Pass** on LD 38, LD 397, and LD 1149. Thank you very much for your time and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

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¹ <https://www.lewistonmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17412/>