

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

Date: April 24, 2025

Re: Testimony in opposition to LD1149

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

My name is Stephen Ellis and I live in Waldo. I am testifying in opposition to LD1149. You will hear from other people more expert than I regarding numerous provisions of this bill and how they are detrimental to Maine's exemplary and already secure voting processes. I wish to call your attention a single provision – that that aims to change the process for challenging voters' eligibility. This provision seeks to change the burden of proof of eligibility, for any voter whose eligibility may be questioned, from the challenger to the challenged. If enacted, this sets up the scenario of an organized effort to challenge the eligibility of large number of voters and placing the burden on them – many of who will simply not have the where-with-all to respond in a timely fashion – thereby having their perfectly eligible votes discounted. And this process would also require an enormous, expensive, time-consuming effort by the Secretary of State to resolve the challenges. The net effects, of disallowing a large number of votes, and necessitating a long delay in knowing the outcome of the election, would introduce doubt about the election and possibly change the outcome – which appears to be the very intent of the largely unknown well-funded external sponsors of the referendum.

I urge the Committee to oppose this bill. Thank you for your time, your service, and the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Stephen B. Ellis
Town of Waldo