



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**RE: LD 1109**

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Dick Bradstreet and I represent House District 61, which is comprised of my home town of Vassalboro and most of Sidney. I'm here today to present to you LD 1109, a *Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Create Consistent Election Dates for Citizen-Initiated Referenda in Even-numbered Election Years*.

I think we all recognize that there is a growing trend to rely on citizen-initiated referenda to enact Maine statutes as well as decide other issues that we deem important to how we do life here in our state. It is a method that ensures citizens from all over our state can participate directly in important actions that affect our daily lives. It would seem to make sense that we enable and encourage as many people as possible to take part in the process. History has shown us that Maine voters are much more likely to go to the polls when there is either a Gubernatorial or Presidential election. Of course, these occur on even-numbered years. We had an election for Governor in 2022 and an election for President in 2020, and since they are both for four year terms, all future such elections will occur on even-numbered years.

As you can see from the accompanying data, Maine has a history of voters turning out in much higher numbers on even-numbered years than they do on odd-numbered years. When we are voting on matters crucial to our state, and we really want to determine what most Mainers truly desire, should we not then conduct these votes when more people are likely to participate? It seems logical to me that we should, so that's why I'm presenting LD 1109 to you today for your consideration. I hope you will give it a favorable vote. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**RE: LD 1109**

**CITIZEN REFERENDUM TURNOUT**

**History of Questions and Turnout**

November, 2022 – No Major Statewide Questions – 676,819

November, 2021 – NECEC and Right to Food – 406,406

November, 2020 – No Major Statewide Questions – 819,183

March, 2020 – Vaccine Repeal (People's Veto) – 386,964

November, 2018 – Stop the Scam – 630,541

June, 2018 – RCV #2 (People's Veto) – 211,602

November, 2017 – York Casino – 344,385

November, 2016 – 3% Tax Surcharge, Minimum Wage Increase, Background Checks for Guns,  
Marijuana Legalization, RCV #1 – 731,433

November, 2015 – Clean Elections – 218,335