

**From:** joepick@aol.com,  
**To:** joepick@aol.com,  
**Subject:** Fwd: TESTIMONY TO THE VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
**Date:** Sun, May 21, 2023 1:28 pm

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

Thank you. I'm Joe Pickering Jr. from Bangor a Veteran, a Republican and former Democrat representing Mainers for Open Elections. We totally support Senator Joe Baldacci's LD 1959 a Top 4 with RCV bill. It gives greater freedom and more candidate choice to the voter and hopefully to the public who currently refrain from voting which is tragic. 77,000,000 did NOT vote in the 2020 Presidential Elections!

A few days ago, I got a written message: THIS PERSON CARED ENOUGH ABOUT THE MAINE VOTING SYSTEM TO RESPOND RESPONSIBLY!! She politely wrote: "Didn't want to post something negative on your profile about ranked choice. It was a disaster in local Portland voting. Because of this - I simply cannot support. The only fair way to do ranked choice voting is to put EVERYONE on the ballot and not by political party."

My response to her: THIS BILL DOES EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTS. EVERYONE ON THE BALLOT AND NOT BY POLITICAL PARTY. That is what a Top Four Open Primary Does with RCV! It includes everyone does not exclude anyone. Our parties participate in this TRUE open primary AKA as Nonpartisan but do NOT own this public election system. (Just like all the local elections in Maine) It is modeled after Alaska's Top 4 with RCV. Alaska borrows Maine's RCV. And maybe even what the Bangor Chapter of the League of Women Mainers did in 2017. That chapter recommend a Top 4 primary with RCV. First in the nation to do so!

I served in the U.S. Air Force during the Berlin Crisis and went to visit the over 5,100 Americans buried in Luxembourg including General Patton. I don't believe any one of them gave up their lives for WE THE PARTY BUT FOR WE THE PEOPLE. PLEASE MEMBERS OF THE VETERAN'S AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE you took an oath to our Constitution. Shouldn't that include giving more Voter Freedom? Please VOTE FOR LD 1959. Thank you. (Further Information for your consideration)

1. [Record number of Americans say they're politically independent \(axios.com\)](#)
2. [Opinion | Charles Schumer: Adopt the Open Primary - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

3. Republican U.S. Congressional Congressman Mickey Edwards [The Parties Versus the People \(yale.edu\)](#)
  4. [Maine Voices: Use new glue to repair our democracy \(pressherald.com\)](#)
  5. Free Video song for you! [AWAKE ! - YouTube](#)
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