

Hebert, Michelle

From: Andrews, John
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:04 PM
To: Hebert, Michelle
Subject: Fw: Rebuttle to LD 1578

Michelle,

Can you please add this to the testimony for LD 1578? Thank you.

John Andrews
State Representative for House District 79
Serving Paris, Sumner, West Paris and Woodstock
Cell: 207-739-9075
John.Andrews@legislature.maine.gov

From: John Andrews <andrewsedc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:01 PM
To: Andrews, John
Subject: Fwd: Rebuttle to LD 1578

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joseph Martin <jemhunter@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at 12:00 PM
Subject: Rebuttle to LD 1578
To: John Andrews <andrewsedc@gmail.com>

Testimony on LD 1578

LD 1578 seems to outline amendments and additions to Maine's electoral process, particularly concerning ranked-choice voting and the implementation of the National Popular Vote for President Act. Here's a summarized rebuttal of some key sections:

1. **Section 1 - Batch elimination:** This amendment aims to eliminate candidates when it's "mathematically impossible" for them to win. While this might seem efficient, it could prematurely eliminate potentially viable candidates. It is better to allow the natural progression of votes and candidate eliminations based on voters' preferences rather than a preconceived mathematical threshold.
2. **Section 3 - Procedures for determining the winner:** This section outlines the procedures for determining the winner using ranked-choice voting. It however limits the options to either having 2 or fewer continuing candidates or removing the last-place candidate. This rigidity restricts the fair representation of the electorate's diverse choices.

3. **Section 6 - Procedures for using ranked-choice voting under the National Popular Vote for President Act:** This section adds complexity by integrating ranked-choice voting with the National Popular Vote. While the goal might be to synchronize state elections with the national popular vote, this will complicate the voting process for citizens and will undermine the state's electoral integrity. We can not and should not undermine or in anyway water down our electoral voting to the benefit of another states laws or interests that might benefit a particular political party.
4. **Section 11 - National Popular Vote for President Act:** The Act itself changes how presidential electors are appointed, focusing on a national popular vote instead of the Electoral College. This dilutes the our state's voice in the presidential elections and definately favor's more populous states over smaller ones such as ours. This smells of political skulldudgery.
5. **Section 12 - Legislative intent:** This section aims to clarify the changes made. It inadvertently introduces more confusion by altering conventions.

In essence, while these amendments may aim to streamline and modernize the electoral process, they introduce complexities and limitations that hinder the representation of voters' preferences and the state's independent voice in national elections. The integration of the National Popular Vote for President Act might raises concerns about the state's autonomy in the choosing its electors. This bill is a power grab away from Maine Voters.

I would ask that this bill be scuttled.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph E. Martin

Rumford Point, Maine

Can you give me an email to send this to so that its included??