



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

DATE: February 3, 2025

RE: LD 234 An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica.

My name is Al Cleveland. I am here today as the Advocacy Director of the League of Women Voters of Maine. The League is testifying in opposition to LD 234 An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting.

The League of Women Voters of Maine is a nonpartisan political organization that has been working for over 100 years to encourage informed and active participation in government, to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. We have been working on and supporting Ranked Choice Voting since 2008, and we have been among the lead organizations working to pass RCV for over fifteen years.

The League supports ranked-choice voting (RCV) as a voting method to give voters meaningful choices, eliminate spoilers, and reduce negative campaigning.

In 2024, Maine successfully conducted ranked choice elections for the fourth consecutive election cycle. What we see is clear: a majority of voters like RCV and want it to continue to be a feature of Maine elections.

Back in 2018 when RCV was first used in Maine, opponents predicted voter confusion and decreased participation. None of that happened. Polls and surveys of voters have consistently shown that they find it clear, easy, and empowering. In an October poll led by FairVote and the Bangor Daily News, 82% of respondents said that RCV was "very easy" or "easy" to use. There is no evidence of a decrease in turnout or an increase in voter errors. Mainers have adapted to RCV.

We believe the Legislature should respect the will of Maine voters, who have twice in recent years affirmed their support for ranked-choice voting at the ballot box. Even if you don't like RCV, you should respect the constitutional rights of a majority of Maine citizens to enact laws by petition. We urge this committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 234.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.