

February 10, 2025

Testimony  
In Support of

LD 349 An Act to Repeal the Laws that Allow Same-day Voter  
Registration

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and esteemed Member of the Veterans and Legal Affairs committee I am Virginia Woodman from Windham, Maine and am here today to present testimony in support of LD 349 An Act to Repeal the Laws that Allow Same-Day Voter Registration.

On November 5, 2004 I was privileged to spend thirteen hours outside of the RSU14 High School in Windham. This was the polling place for Windham and as a candidate for RSU 14 School Committee I was allowed to say hello and introduce myself to the constituents of Windham. An unexpected development for me was to witness the convergence of 4,805 people who came to exercise their right to vote.

Of those 4,000+ people, 733 were there to register to vote as well and were added to the voter list that day. 273 of them were first time voters.

My concern was the extra load on the resources of the staff and volunteers and the appearance of disorganization that seemed to be caused by the same day registration aspect of the day.

The wait time to vote all day long was at least one, and often two hours. People who had planned to vote on their lunch hour found it necessary to leave without voting. The convenience of same day registration impinged on the ability of the already registered voter to exercise their right.

Our town officials are extremely professional, extremely organized and even heroic in their planning and execution of the voting procedure. I am dismayed by the appearance of disorganization and feel that if the same day registration piece were removed, a huge burden would be lifted from their shoulders.

My suggestion is to allow voter registration up until the Thursday before Election Day. That would allow for last minute voter list updates, and other necessary aspects of the voting organizational process to be completed before the actual voting day. This would include a firm ballot count.

I urge you to consider this testimony and support LD 349 to repeal same-day voter registration.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

*Virginia M. Woodman*

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