



# Maine Conservation Voters

*Inform. Vote. Protect.*

## Testimony of Maine Conservation Voters In Opposition to LD 349 *“An Act to Repeal the Laws That Allow Same-Day Voter Registration”*

Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

February 10, 2025

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. I am Nick Janzen, Partnerships Director at Maine Conservation Voters, a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. We support measures to make Maine’s democratic institutions more accessible, efficient and secure.

We oppose LD 349. Same Day Voter Registration (SDR) is one of the most effective voting laws Maine has. Repealing SDR would create significant political, practical, and legal consequences that would ultimately harm Maine voters.

First, Mainers have already made their stance on SDR known, when voters overwhelmingly enacted a People’s Veto, rejecting a bill passed by the legislature to repeal SDR. SDR is a positive feature of our voting laws, benefitting members of every party, and is part of the reason that Maine consistently has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country.

Practically speaking, repealing SDR could cause additional strain on our town clerks and election officials and confuse voters. Voter registration deadlines are fundamentally arbitrary—allowing SDR prevents voter disenfranchisement from occurring simply because a voter missed a deadline that they did not know about. In addition, moving the registration deadline to the Thursday before Election Day would create a surge in last-minute registrations, putting strain on local election officials and increasing

administrative costs. This could also lead to an increase in the use of provisional ballots, creating an additional burden on town clerks and delaying the tallying process.

Lastly, SDR reduces litigation risks. According to the Institute of Responsive Government, SDR promotes uniformity statewide, eliminates the risk of lawsuits about registration deadlines that fall on holidays or during extreme weather events, reduces litigation caused by voter confusion, and promotes accessibility and voter participation. By providing an accessible and efficient registration system, same-day voter registration contributes to a smoother and more inclusive electoral process — all while reducing the need for litigation.

Maine Conservation Voters urges you to vote against LD 349, and I'd be happy to take your questions.