



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

DATE: March 10, 2025

RE: LD 266 – An Act to Require the Updating of Voter Registration Signatures

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Al Cleveland. I'm a resident of Portland. I am here today as the Advocacy Director of the League of Women Voters of Maine. I am testifying in opposition to 266.

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.

Requiring voters to update their signatures on voter registration records every 5 years will be a lot more work for clerks (possibly triggering a municipal mandate), and it could be a voter-suppressing burden on eligible voters, essentially requiring them to re-register every five years whether they've moved or not. Under current law, a voter is not required to show ID to change their enrollment status or their address. (They are required to show proof of residency for the latter.) Would they have to demonstrate their identity to change their signature? Would people still be able to file written or online requests for absentee ballots if their signature expired? What would be the status of a voter's actual voter registration if their signature wasn't valid?

We're not sure what problem this bill is trying to solve, but it would have to be a pretty big one to justify this draconian measure. Maine does not have that kind of big problem. Our elections are secure and well managed; our voter registration files are clean and up-to-date. If and when there is an occasional problem with signature matching, that problem can be corrected without wholesale disruption.

We oppose this bill, and we urge you vote ought not to pass on LD 266.