



Richard Bradstreet  
Senator, District 15

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**LD 1068, "AN ACT TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO ELECT THE STATE AUDITOR."**

**Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government**

**Public Hearing**

**April 7, 2025**

**10:00am**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and esteemed members of the Committee on State and Local Government:

I am Dick Bradstreet; I represent Senate District 15, which is comprised of Augusta, Belgrade, China, Mount Vernon, Sidney and Vassalboro. I am here today to present LD 1068, *An Act to Allow People to Elect the State Auditor*.

As I understand it, you are holding a number of Public Hearings today to receive testimonies regarding the popular election of Constitutional Officers, as well as that of our State Auditor. I'm fairly sure that my viewpoint on this particular subject mirrors those of many others who have already testified or will soon testify before you. There is really no need for me to elaborate further on the reasons these bills have been put forth. In short, I believe that any office carrying out the duties that serve all of our citizens should be elected by

a popular vote rather than the current method of being selected by the Legislature. A statewide office holder should be chosen via a statewide vote.

The status quo has evolved into what is essentially a spoils system, where the majority in the Legislature selects the State Auditor. Regardless of whether the person selected is well qualified or not, the method of selection serves to undermine people's confidence in the system. A statewide vote will allow all candidates to advocate for their abilities and readiness for the position. The people will be able to scrutinize each individual and choose the person of their choice. This will help restore citizens' confidence that officials acting on their behalf in Augusta have earned their trust and their votes. It will be a healthy change for our state.

It is my hope that you give this bill, and others similar to it, a strong Ought to Pass vote. Thank you