



Joseph Baldacci
Senator, District 9

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Joe Baldacci, and I represent Senate District 9, which includes Bangor and Hermon. I am pleased today to introduce my Bill LD 1422, An Act Regarding Open Primary Elections and Ranked-choice Voting."

In the past I supported and voted for the Semi-Open Partisan Primary bill that has become Maine law. It was a valuable achievement moving from a closed primary. It puts us in the "middle of the pack nationwide," but isn't Maine's heritage to lead? The truth is, we are not leading. States like Alaska, California, Washington and Nebraska have some form of Non-Partisan primary. Other states are exploring it. I believe our parties need to recognize the reality that more Americans nationwide are not voting at all and those independent voters including some 300,000 in Maine voting nationwide now outnumber both major parties together!

Voting is the foundation of our Democracy, but I have come to the conclusion that the partisan election process should not be part of our foundation. Not voting is harmful to the voters, all parties and America itself. Maine needs to change to a Nonpartisan Primary with RCV. It's not new to Maine. Maine has a nonparty primary at the municipal level along with 85% of all the cities nationwide.

Permit me to repeat my belief. I believe the partisan election process is harmful to all of us: the voters, all the parties and America itself. Please support the change to a Nonpartisan Primary with RCV.

Please support my LD 1422 bill to help Maine become one of the leading states in true election reform.

Thank you for your consideration.