

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

Date: 4/24/25

Re: In favor of LD 1666 - An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

My name is Nancy Jacobson and I live in Bangor. I am testifying in support of LD 1666.

I have truly appreciated using RCV in our Maine elections because after decades of the old system, I don't have to calculate my vote anymore. RCV allows me to vote for the candidate I truly want without worrying about vote splitting and helping the candidate I don't want to win. It allows us to hear from and consider more candidates with new ideas for our state.

Because the people of Maine voted for RCV twice, I think it is important to expand it to the full use that the voters intended for all of our elections. We now have the benefit of the 2024 precedent from the Alaska Supreme Court to guide us in doing that.

I want to mention my observations about confusion and the lack of it related to the RCV process:

I have not seen confusion at my mother's senior living facility. The town brings absentee ballots there for a poll-like voting assembly. Residents there have now used RCV a few times. As I walked people back to their rooms this November, I found that while there were people who complained about the font size on the ballots, I did not hear confusion about the RCV system itself.

On the other hand, I have seen confusion about when RCV is used by the voters. As a volunteer involved in door to door canvassing leading up to elections, I now often spend time explaining to people, when they will be able to use RCV and when they won't. Expanding RCV to the general state elections will eliminate that confusion.

I encourage you in and thank you for your efforts to expand Ranked Choice Voting and for all the work you do for our state.