



April 24, 2025

Re: LD 1666

Good morning, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. I am here today on behalf of the Mainers for Modern Elections coalition to express our strong support for LD 1666, which would expand the use of ranked-choice voting to gubernatorial and state legislative races.

Mainers for Modern Elections is a coalition that is committed to ensuring that our right to vote safely transcends politics and partisanship. We advocate for safe, secure, modern elections. Our coalition is committed to securing equitable access to the ballot for every eligible Maine voter.

As you may recall, Maine voters overwhelmingly passed ranked-choice voting (RCV) in a referendum vote in 2017. Since then, we have successfully implemented RCV in several elections, and Mainers have grown accustomed to using it. However, the fact that we use RCV in some elections but not others creates confusion for voters.

By expanding RCV to gubernatorial and state legislative races, we can standardize our elections and provide a more consistent experience for voters. This will not only reduce confusion but also allow the benefits of RCV to be felt in these critical races.

Ranked-choice voting promotes civility, reduces negative campaigning, and ensures that the winner has support, made clear through ranking of preferences, from a majority of voters. Ranked-choice voting does not benefit one political party over another, but rather it benefits voters by allowing them to express their preferences. By adopting RCV for all state elections, we can promote a more positive and inclusive electoral process that better reflects the will of Maine voters.

We urge you to support LD 1666 and give Maine voters the opportunity to experience the benefits of ranked-choice voting in all state elections.

Thank you.

Members of the Mainers for Modern Elections Coalition include:

ACLU of Maine

AARP of Maine

Center for Secure and Modern Elections

Common Cause

Defend Our Health

Gateway Community Services

League of Women Voters of Maine

Maine AFL-CIO

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections

Maine Conservation Voters

Maine Equal Justice

Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition

Maine People's Alliance

MSEA-SEIU Local 1989

Maine Women's Lobby

Maine Youth Power

RepresentUs