

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

DATE: 4/24/25

RE: 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

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

My name is Victoria Olson and I live in Waldo, Maine. I am testifying in support of LD 1666. I support this bill because it makes elections not only more fair, but also more representative of the voting populace. I am in good company with my support for LD 1666 - a majority of Mainers support the ranked-choice election method and also find it easy to use.

I am a fan of democracy, even with all its flaws and difficulties, and I want to see civic participation increase. Most Mainers I know are as independent as they come - and most are not satisfied with what seems like an inevitable situation with choosing our State leaders. In the current system for choosing our Governor and State Legislature, it's one party or the other and that's that. Other candidates don't have a meaningful chance to compete and enrich the dialogue.

The result of our rigid system as it stands is that, unfortunately for democracy, many citizens disengage from the franchise altogether. In my canvassing for various candidates, knocking on doors, I have heard voters who feel disconnected from the system and dissatisfied with their choices. They don't prefer being faced with a winner-take-all situation that does not meet their needs for a free and fair choice of representation.

For all these reasons and more, I urge the committee to support this bill. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.