



5/1/25

RE: LD 38 and LD 397

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, members of the committee, I'm here today to testify on behalf of Mainers for Modern Elections in opposition to LDs 38 and 397.

Mainers for Modern Elections is a non-partisan coalition of advocacy groups that believes a functioning democracy requires easy access to the ballot for eligible voters, especially from marginalized voting populations; strong voter protections; and confidence in a secure, modern, representative, and well-resourced elections system. The coalition advocates for statutorily protected voting rights, structural democracy reforms that expand voter access, and investment in and modernization of election administration and implementation. We pursue these policies through direct and grassroots advocacy and by educating and providing resources to public officials and coalition members.

The freedom to vote is a fundamental right in our democracy. It should not be more accessible for some citizens than others.

Proponents of these measures have argued that photo ID is required to buy alcohol and board a plane, so why not to vote? Flying to another city or purchasing alcohol are not fundamental civil rights. Voting is. Democracy isn't transactional, and polling places aren't retail stores. Their locations, processes, and costs are not supposed to be easily accessible for some but severely out of reach for others.

Furthermore, Maine's elections are safe and secure, and we already have a comprehensive voter registration process where people must first prove their identity, citizenship, and residency to register to vote.

LD 38 and LD 397 do little to make our elections more secure, and they do very little for our faith in elections. Their main impact would be to add more costs, complications, and consequences to our elections and to turn eligible voters away — voters like Maine seniors that don't drive and may not have a driver's license or people living in rural areas of our state that may have a harder time getting to the BMV.

Instead of creating more barriers, making it harder for eligible voters to cast a ballot, we urge the legislature to protect our freedoms and continue to support election workers dedicated to keeping Maine's elections safe, secure, and accessible. The best way to ensure the security of Maine elections is by making sure our dedicated state and local election administrators have the resources they need to administer our elections. Please vote "ought not to pass" on LD 38 and 397.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

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 Education Association

Maine Equal Justice

Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition

Maine People's Alliance

MSEA-SEIU Local 1989

Maine Women's Lobby

Maine Youth Power

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Represent Us