



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

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: LD 1149 An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting

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

My name is Anna Kellar. I'm a resident of Portland. I am here today as Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Maine testifying in opposition to LD 1149.

For 105 years, Leagues here in Maine and across the country have worked to educate and register voters and eliminate obstacles to voting. The League supports full voter participation by all eligible Americans, and we oppose efforts to create new barriers that block citizens' constitutional right to vote.

Our volunteers work every election to help people register to vote. We know our town and city clerks, their professionalism and dedication. We volunteer as nonpartisan election observers. We assist people with mobility issues in getting their absentee ballots. Some of us work as election clerks and deputy registrars. We know how elections work in Maine. We know first-hand.

The bill before us will do vastly more harm than good. If it were just photo ID, we would strenuously object, as you have heard in other testimony today. But this bill is so much worse. It is also an attack on absentee voting.

- It will repeal ongoing absentee voting, where a voter can sign up to have an absentee ballot mailed to them automatically for each election cycle.
- It limits the use and number of absentee ballot dropboxes to the point where some towns may find it impractical to offer them.
- It makes it impossible for voters to request an absentee ballot over the phone.
- It prevents an authorized third party from delivering an absentee ballot, a service that many elderly and disabled Mainers rely on.

We know first-hand that many Mainers – people in every one of your districts – rely on these provisions of current law to fully and freely exercise their franchise.

This bill hurts us all. These restrictions can and will harm every type of voter, with senior and rural voters experiencing the worst of the disenfranchisement. It will be costly, too. Unless this bill goes down at the polls in November – which we hope and intend that it will, many of the provisions included in LD 1149 will create statutory conflicts that will have to be resolved in the next legislature session. (Where did this language come from, anyway? – it clearly was not surgically tailored to drop into our own Title 21-A.) This bill introduces uncertainty, new election procedures, and voter confusion. It's hard to see how the dust will settle on this in time for the 2026 election. Taxpayers will be on the hook for the re-tooling and re-training, and we will all suffer.

Maine has strong voting rights. We are a leader in the nation. Our small, rural, working-class state has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country. That's something to be proud of. We rank this high in voter participation because of our secure elections, same-day voter registration, no-excuse absentee ballots, and no photo ID laws required to vote. Let's keep it that way.

We urge you to vote ONTP on this bill and send it directly to voters in November, where we, our grassroots members and volunteers, along with our partners and allies, will do everything we can to defeat it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.