



Maine Conservation Voters

Inform. Vote. Protect.

Testimony of Maine Conservation Voters

“An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting”

Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Nick Janzen, Director of Policy and Partnerships at Maine Conservation Voters, a state-wide non-profit organization with more than 13,000 members and supporters devoted to building an inclusive democracy and making conservation and climate action a political priority.

We support measures to make Maine’s democratic institutions more accessible, efficient and secure, and that’s why we’re testifying in the strongest opposition to LD 1149, “An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting.”

LD 1149 is a restrictive, unnecessary overhaul of Maine’s voting laws that would disenfranchise eligible voters, especially those who are older, attending college, disabled, low-income, or living in rural communities. It mirrors out-of-state policies that have been proven to reduce voter turnout and exacerbate inequalities in access to the ballot.

Despite the misleading bill title, the chief aim of this legislation appears to be gutting Maine’s wildly successful absentee voting program. This proposal would eliminate the ongoing absentee voting list, upon which older Mainers are already relying; shorten the absentee voting period; restrict who can return a ballot on someone else’s behalf; limit the number of secure ballot drop boxes towns can offer; make the absentee ballot application needlessly complicated; and limit a town’s ability to run elections.

Mainers of all stripes rely on absentee voting to participate in elections because it’s convenient and secure. We should strengthen our absentee voting. Instead, this initiative burdens voters, strains election administrators, and disproportionately harms seniors, people with disabilities, rural voters, students, and others who rely on absentee voting to participate in our democracy.

In addition, this bill imposes one of the strictest voter identification laws in the country for no evidence-based reason. In-person voter fraud is vanishingly rare.¹

But the harm these laws inflict is well documented. National research has shown that strict voter ID laws reduce turnout, particularly among seniors, students, people of color, and low-income voters.² These groups are also the most likely to lack government-issued ID and the supporting documents needed to obtain one. For many, those documents cost money and require long-distance travel. Rural Mainers would be hit particularly hard. Maine's geography, aging population, and limited public transit mean that what looks like a "simple requirement" on paper becomes a significant barrier in practice.

LD 1149 is a solution in search of a problem—and it creates more problems than it solves. I respectfully urge you to reject this bill and send it to the ballot so that Maine voters can make their voices heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Janzen, Esq.
Director of Policy and Partnerships
Maine Conservation Voters

¹ Brennan Center for Justice, "The Myth of Voter Fraud."

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/ensure-every-american-can-vote/vote-suppression/myth-voter-fraud>

² Alvarez, R. Michael and Bailey, Delia and Katz, Jonathan N., The Effect of Voter Identification Laws on Turnout (January 1, 2008). California Institute of Technology Social Science Working Paper No. 1267R, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=1084598> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1084598>.

APRIL 2025

WE OPPOSE LD 1149.

THE UNDERSIGNED 346 MAINERS OPPOSE
ENSHRINING LD 1149 INTO LAW AND BELIEVE
VOTERS SHOULD DECIDE THIS ISSUE ON THE
BALLOT IN NOVEMBER.

Aaron Chase York
AB Freed Farmingdale
Abigail Ranger Richmond
Alan Liska Portland
Alex Brown New Sharon
Alexander Buck Jr Cumberland Foreside
Alice Kelley Orono
Alicia Tefft Freeport
Allison Andrews Portland
Amber Wright Saco
Amy Jones Alton
Amy Eshoo North Yarmouth
Andrea Nurse Avon
Ann Carman Scarborough
Anna Carr Northeast Harbor
Anna Wlodarczyk Portland
Anna Wood-Cox Morrill
Anna Lupien Waldoboro
Anne McGhie Cutler
Anne Dalton Falmouth
Anneliese Schultz Gray
Annie Wilder Portland
April Laverty Lewiston
Ari Porter Gray
Ashley Eiler Portland
Ashley Charleson Brunswick
Barbara Cole Orono
Barbara Bourgoine Readfield
Barbara Casey Topsham
Barry Smith Island Falls
Beth Allen Wells
Bettina Pratt Madison
Beverly Richards-Smith Hancock
Bill Hammond Trevett
Bill Gruener Boothbay Harbor
Breeze Azrael Abbot
Brenda Moot Winterport
Brenda Franey South Portland
Bruce Burnham Old Town
Bruce Wood Portland

Bruce Brandt Brunswick
Bryn Richard Freeport
Burton Taylor Harpswell
Carol Richards Richmond
Catherine Graham Hollis Center
Catherine Kerrigan Windham
Catherine Anderson Poland
Cathy Breen Falmouth
CB Davis Gray
Charlene Clukey Wells
Charles Ferguson East Millinocket
Cheryl Hoffman Lebanon
Cheryl Thompson Winthrop
Chloe Hoffman Portland
Chris Harkness Albion
Christopher Marshall Montville
Chuck Farrell Topsham
Claire Mortimer Brooklin
Corliss Mitchell Starks
Cynthia Phinney Livermore Falls
Cynthia Jalbert Lewiston
Dana Little Portland
Dana Colihan Portland
Daniel Oppenheim Falmouth
Daniel Kirchoff Belfast
Daniel Katz Cumberland Foreside
Danni Yungk Vassalboro
David Beane Steep Falls
David Struck Steuben
David Robinson Ocean Park
David Jolly Penobscot
David Hales Bar Harbor
David Smith Portland
David Henderson Friendship
David Winter Benton
Dawn Cyr Freeport
Deane Rykerson Kittery Point
Debbie Gray Portland
Debby Kerr Yarmouth
Debora Noone Brunswick

Deborah Burd Strong
Deborah Capwell Belfast
Deborah Burke Wilton
Deborah Lee Brewer
Debra Pennesi Belfast
Deena Weinstein Falmouth
Denley Poor-Reynolds Freeport
Derek Smith Woolwich
Diana Richard Topsham
Dixie Hathaway Bar Harbor
Don Gow Monroe
Donald Angevine Bethel
Donna Cassidy Gorham
Dotty Caldwell Penobscot
Doug Mccown Portland
Douglas Hylan Brooklin
Dylan Hertzberg Portland
Eileen Purdy Portland
Elaine Malkin Canaan
Eleanor Weisman Belfast
Eli Edgecomb Scarborough
Elizabeth Pierson Brunswick
Elizabeth Jackson Robbinston
Elizabeth Henry Camden
Elizabeth Smith Portland
Emily Dingman Turner
Emmah Doucette Fryeburg
Eric Anderson Belfast
Erika Rowland Bridgton
Erin Place Norway
Eve Sawyer Portland
Fawn King Litchfield
Frances Pan Belfast
Francine Rudoff Litchfield
Francis Weld Northeast Harbor
Frank A Fountain Norway
Gabe Cole Portland
Gabrian McPhail Vinalhaven
Gail Presley Rockland
Gary Burke East Wilton

George Morton Saco
Ginny Remeika Topsham
Glenn Tozier Kennebunk
Grace Bartlett Bangor
Heather M Jackson Freedom
Henry Harrell Augusta
Hilary Holm Whitefield
Hugh Harwell Albion
Ivory Mills Bath
Jackson Chadwick Bangor
Jacob Moeller Portland
James Handy Lewiston
Jamie Ribisi-Braley Auburn
Jane Hardy Lincolnville
Jane Scease Brunswick
Jane Alper Topsham
Janet Kuech Gorham
Janet Williams Searsport
Janet Robinson Portland
Janice Anthony Jackson
Jay Helfrich Brunswick
Jeff Philbrick Alna
Jeff Lovitz Belgrade
Jennifer Porter Bar Mills
Jennifer Defilipp Portland
Jennifer Melville Freeport
Jerry King Yarmouth
Jerry Longcore Orono
Jo Kilburn North Berwick
Jo Ann Simon Camden
Jo D. Saffair Pownal
Joan Griggs Lovell
Joanne Mason Readfield
Joanne Dunlap Rangeley
Joanie Zavez Veazie
Joel Widenor Brunswick
Joelle Cote-Powell Dyer Brook
John Neal Greene
John Reilly Corea
John Doucette Waterville

John Kiel Norway
Jonathan Hachey Fairfield
Jonnie Maloney Livermore
Joseph Peraino Portland
Jud Knox York
Judy Spiller Kittery Point
Julia Endicott Portland
Julia Sisson New Gloucester
Julie Hofheimer Edgecomb
June Smoot Kennebunk
Karen Gutchess Madison
Karen King Brunswick
Karl Miller South Portland
Kate Bourne Portland
Kate Carpenter Portland
Katharine Jackson Portland
Katherine Davis Brunswick
Kathleen Meil Camden
Kathryn Mueller Harpswell
Kathy Missal Woolwich
Katie Liu South Portland
Ken Brinnick Mechanic Falls
Kerry Read South Paris
Kerry Kohnert Bremen
Kristy Parke Gorham
Kyle Zieba Westbrook
Laura Sholtz Exeter
Laura Qualey Yarmouth
Laurie Fear South Portland
Laurie Rowan Kittery
Laurie Pierce Portland
Laurie Courage Steuben
Leah Postman Topsham
Lee Ann Dalessandro Jay
Leslie Hudson Orono
Linda Cousens Newburgh
Linda Doyle Woolwich
Linda Stathoplos Wells
Linda Mills Newcastle
Linda Cleaves Easton

Linda Macdougall Falmouth
Lisa Stathoplos Searsport
Lisa Simpson Lutts Penobscot
Lisa Kushner Belfast
Loretta Melhado Cape Elizabeth
Lori Corbani Bar Harbor
Lorna Ferguson East Millinocket
Lorrie Sluti Portland
Louise Backer Portland
Lucy Hochschartner Portland
Lyn Rowden Fairfield
Lyn Harris Carmel
Lyndon Keck Cumberland Center
Lynn Lockwood Topsham
Lynn Thurston Scarborough
Madeleine Martin Old Orchard Beach
Maggie Somers Portland
Maureen Drouin Augusta
Margaret Farrell Topsham
Margaret Garr Providence
Mariah Hayden Orono
Marie McLaughlin Searsport
Martha Briggs Windham
Martha Story-Foisy Freedom
Mary Marra Wells
Mary Veit Ellsworth
Mary Daley Scarborough
Mary Flack Falmouth
Mary Ellen Wilson West Bath
Maryann Glidden South Portland
Maryjane Black Saco
Maurice Castonguay Livermore Falls
Medora Van Denburgh Medford
Meghan Duff Bangor
Melissa Tozier Waterville
Melody Lewis-kane Sedgwick
Mercie Normand Orrs Island
Michael Montgomery Augusta
Michael Perkins Bowdoinham
Michele Bouchard Waterville
Michelle Ham Saco

Mike OBrien Hampden
Molly Rahman Southwest Harbor
Nancy Orr Lewiston
Nancy Olmstead Portland
Nancy Glassman Searsmont
Naomi Kronlokken Portland
Natasha Mayers Whitefield
Nicholas Janzen Camden
Nola Prevost Brewer
Pam Joy Scarborough
Pam Blake Freeport
Pamela Anderson Old Orchard Beach
Pamela Pamela Bangor
Pat Chanterelle Yarmouth
Patricia Rogers Topsham
Patricia Lord Clark Clark Brunswick
Paul Wheelock Fairfield
Paul Brown Topsham
Peggy Smith Lincolnville
Peggy Drake Steuben
Penelope Andrews Hermon
Peter Dugas Portland
Peter Beves Lewiston
Peter Eiermann Carrabassett Valley
Rachael Martin Westbrook
Rachel Hale Biddeford
Raija Suomela Topsham
Rand Elliston Wells
Rani Sheaffer Hallowell
Ray Hearne Stockton Springs
Rebecca Buyers Sweden
Rebecca Clark Whitneyville
Richard Esten Hebron
Richard Record Buxton
Richard McGonagle Hollis Center
Richard Osann Bar Harbor
Richard Goldsmith Biddeford Pool
Richy Ainsworth Sweden
Rita Breton Scarborough
Robert Fast Freeport

Roberta Beavers South Berwick
Roberta Berecz Milbridge
Robin Stevens Litchfield
Roger Leisner Augusta
Roger Zimmerman Portland
Ronald Himmer Brunswick
Rosalie Paul Brunswick
Roy Smoot Kennebunk
Ruby Mast Topsham
Sally Oliver Somerville
Sally Howell Bath
Sandra Jensen Cumberland Center
Sandra Piechocki Belfast
Sara Freshley Portland
Sarah Braik Portland
Sarah Duggan Boothbay Harbor
Sarah Haggerty Falmouth
Scott Cunningham Bath
Scott Denman Belmont
Sean Colby Brunswick
Shantia Wright-Gray Ocean Park
Sheila Rosenfeld South Berwick
Sheila Rosenfeld South Berwick
Sheila Lloyd Topsham
Shirley Davis Orono
Stacie Haines Augusta
Stefan Dutka Lisbon Falls
Stephanie Rhodes Portland
Stephanie Jewett Brunswick
Steven Vogel Falls Church
Susan Kistenmacher Farmingdale
Susan Miller Washington
Susan Reilly Minot
Susan Van Alsenoy Wiscasset
Susan Williams Scarborough
Susan Bernat Portland
Susan Bosco Portland
Susan Cummings-Lawrence South Portland
Susan Tananbaum Freeport
Susan MacNeil-Densmore Camden

Susan Babb Topsham
Susan McKay Holden
Susan Onion Wayne
Susan Wind Rockland
Susan Moulton Scarborough
Susan Dixon Belfast
Susan Goodwin Topsham
Susan Dexter Appleton
Susanna Place Georgetown
Suzanne Malis-Andersen Veazie
Suzanne Plsut Trescott Twp
Tanya Ford Bangor
Taylor Trush Portland
Terri Neill Cape Neddick
Theresa LaPlante Cumberland Center
Thomas Pinkerman York
Tom Jezek Bath
Tracy Crowell Waldoboro
Trea Young Portland
Trish Stevens Troy
Valarie Johnson Somerville
Victoria Bonebakker Portland
Virginia Zavacky South Berwick
Vivian Smith Portland
William Studebaker Thomaston
William Mook Newcastle
William Lockwood Topsham