



**LD 1149, "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for  
the Purpose of Voting"**

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Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

My name is Laurel Libby, and I represent House District 90, North Auburn and Minot. I am pleased to testify in favor of LD 1149, "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting." Today I'm not here as a sponsor of this bill, but as one of the leaders of Voter ID for ME, the citizens' initiative that brought this legislation before the committee via the people of Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

For well more than a decade, the people of Maine have made it clear: they want basic safeguards in our election system.

They've asked for it repeatedly—and for over ten years, the Maine Legislature has ignored them.

That's why we brought this initiative forward, to make the voice of the Maine people heard. And no offense, but this—right here— isn't the public hearing that matters.

We already held our hearing — and 171,000 Mainers strong testified.

That's how many Mainers signed the petition that has brought this legislation before the committee. Their signatures are their testimony.

And their message is unmistakable: It's time to do the will of the people.

At its core, this initiative is about making sure our elections are:

- Fair,
- Transparent, and
- Secure

Not complicated. Not partisan. Just common sense.

This is how we strengthen our elections.

Because when Mainers have confidence that every vote is cast legally and counted fairly, our entire democratic process is stronger.

This initiative requires voters to present photo identification—just as we do for so many everyday tasks—while ensuring free, accessible IDs for those who need them.

It applies equally to in-person and absentee voting, and includes straightforward, practical steps to help municipalities implement it without undue burden.

It's a reasonable measure, and it reflects the overwhelming public support for this type of reform.

Voter ID is popular. It's widely understood. And it protects a principle we all share: that elections should be above reproach.

This is about securing elections for a stronger Maine.

Not just for one party, one district, or one cycle—but for everyone, every time.

So I respectfully urge you: Don't sidestep this issue again.

Don't silence 171,000 Mainers who've already spoken.

You have two options: Pass this initiative into law—or let the people vote.

Either way, honor their voices. Strengthen our elections. Let's increase the trust on which our democracy depends.

Thank you, and I welcome your questions.