



# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## May 2, 2025 - Testimony in support of LD 1437:

### ***"RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Specify the Qualifications of Electors in State and Local Elections"***

***Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee On Veterans and Legal Affairs.*** Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham, and I serve as the House Republican Leader. I represent House District 12, which includes the towns of Franklin, Gouldsboro, Hancock, Sorrento, Sullivan, Winter Harbor, and Steuben. I'm here to speak in support ***of LD 1437 – "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Specify the Qualifications of Electors in State and Local Elections."***

This proposed amendment would make it clear that voting in Maine's state, county, and municipal elections is reserved exclusively for United States citizens. While Maine's Constitution already restricts voting to U.S. citizens, this amendment would state unambiguously that the fundamental right to vote in our state, county and municipal elections remains reserved for those who are citizens of the United States.

The integrity of our electoral system depends on well-defined qualifications for voters. While the Maine Constitution currently assumes that voters are U.S. citizens, it does not explicitly state that only citizens may vote in state, county or local elections. That omission leaves a potential legal and political gap.

This proposal:

- Preserves the integrity of elections: Restricting voting to U.S. citizens ensures that only those with a legal and permanent stake in the country's future help decide its leaders and laws.
- Reflects national legal standards: Federal elections already require U.S. citizenship to vote; aligning state and local elections with this standard promotes consistency and reduces confusion.
- Protects the value of citizenship: Limiting voting rights to citizens reinforces the significance and responsibilities of becoming a naturalized American.
- Reduces administrative complexity: A clear rule requiring citizenship simplifies voter registration processes and verification efforts for election officials.

- Builds public confidence in election outcomes: Citizens-only voting policies can help maintain trust in the democratic process by addressing concerns about election security and eligibility.

By endorsing LD 1437, the Legislature would provide voters the chance to enshrine in the Maine Constitution what has long been a fundamental democratic principle: that voting is a right and privilege of citizenship. This is not a partisan issue, it's a constitutional and civic one.

In closing, LD 1437 is about protecting the integrity of Maine's elections, preserving the civic meaning of citizenship, and aligning our constitutional language with both our legal practices and public expectations. By supporting this resolution, we empower the people of Maine to affirm that voting in our elections is a right reserved for citizens of the United States, as clearly intended by our constitutional framework.

Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to take any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Bob Faulkingham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham  
House Republican Leader