



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham
Testimony in Support of

LD 1056 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Attorney General

LD 1057 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State

LD 1058 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Treasurer of State

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, and members of the Committee On State and Local Government. I am Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham and I am here to present LD's 1056, 1057, & 1058, proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to provide for the Popular Election of the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Treasurer of State.

The current method for electing these positions is a relic of the past, and does a poor job of including the voices of Mainer's in the process. I would venture, a large majority of Mainers probably don't even know how they are chosen. Many people assume they are appointed by the chief executive as is the case with these positions at the federal level. Even that method would, by default would give the people some influence over who held the positions.

However, here in Maine it is the legislature that elects these positions. Therefore, almost every person who gets elected as a Constitutional Officer is a current or former member of the legislature. This is a process that excludes thousands of well qualified citizens from ever having a chance at holding one of these positions.

Furthermore, not only is it bad enough that the people of Maine are excluded, but the minority party on the legislature is also excluded. The votes are held in the respective caucuses, and whoever is chosen in the caucus of the majority party is the winner. There are "show votes" on the floor of the joint session, but the decisions have already made. This further makes a mockery of our legislature.

It is long past time, to turn these choices over to the people of Maine. Let these decisions be made in a statewide vote, where candidates will need to appeal to the people of Maine, not the partisan caucuses. The biggest voting block in Maine is our unenrolled voters.

When you combine those with Libertarians, Greens, and other small parties, does it seem fair to let partisan caucuses continue to hire people from the inside?

This proposal has broad support from Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, and the Unenrolled. Let's give the power to the people, and vote OTP on LD 1056, 1057, & 1058.

Thank you for your time. I will answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully
Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham