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April 12, 2021

**Testimony of Representative Kyle R. Bailey in Support of LD 859
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government**

Sen. Baldacci, Rep. Matlack and distinguished members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 859, "An Act To Allow Municipalities To Use Ranked-choice Voting in Municipal Elections."

Maine voters have twice approved of ranked-choice voting at the ballot box because they want more choice and more voice in elections and in our democracy. Increasingly, over the past several years I have heard from Maine voters who want the power to rank their choices in local elections; however, Maine law requires non-charter towns to use pick-one plurality voting. This law, which prohibits the local option of ranked-choice voting in most of Maine's towns, is outdated and out of step with the thinking of Maine people. The state should not prohibit any community that wants to adopt ranked-choice voting for local elections from doing so.

I ask that the Committee support this bill, but that you wait to grapple with this issue until the second session of the 130th Maine Legislature when more time and planning can be put into converting this concept bill into a fully developed and vetted proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and share my thoughts.