

David Manter  
FAYETTE

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

My name is David Manter, I live in Fayette, and I am here today to ask you to vote against L.D. 859. The purpose of ranked-choice voting is to deceive the public into thinking that if someone wins by 51% of the people who show up, that that person has got a mandate from the people of the town, when in fact it has two problems. Less than 50% of the registered voters could have voted, which means that no one actually got 51% or a mandate. Even if 80% of the people vote, if someone got 51% of the 80%, they would still not have a majority of the registered voters in that governmental entity. Also, because ranked-choice voting drops people from the voter roll and reduces the people who voted, the percentage of the overall count is now reduced, and the final percent is even lower. Also, if you actually had 100% of the registered voters voting, and the two people in the lead had 40% each, and the other 20% had a mix from other people, and the registered voters had to do a runoff as opposed to a guesstimation, you might find that the person who won would actually have lost because people might have voted for the underdog if given a choice. If people think that they are going to win overwhelmingly or not, and their candidate doesn't do as well, or does better than, expected, then it could very easily have changed the perspective of how they would have voted for the lower candidates and even then their opinion could have been changed in a different manner had they had a runoff. In laymen's term, it's nothing but hokus pokus, or a shell game.