

Lisa Savage
Solon

Honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:
The voters of Maine have twice indicated their preference for a ranked choice voting system for all others elections.

RCV is said to preference one of the two main political parties, but this is untrue. In statewide elections for US Senate under RCV, incumbents have won outright majorities both times, returning a Republican most recently and an Independent/unenrolled candidate in 2018. In the second Congressional district, two RCV elections have been held. The most recent, in 2020, returned the incumbent who is a registered Democrat. In 2018, under RCV, two Independents were eliminated in the 2nd and 3rd rounds, and the Republican incumbent was defeated by a Democrat. Thus, RCV is non-partisan.

Many people claim that RCV succeeded in Maine because of the widespread dismay at a plurality elected governor who earned less than 40% of votes. In these troubled times, Mainers deserve to be led by elected officials who have the support of a majority of voters. RCV is designed so that no one without majority support can be elected.

It is often claimed that RCV is confusing to voters. It's really not, as people rank their choices in a simple grid format on the ballot, selecting only one candidate if that is their preference. Counting the ballots should no candidate earn a majority in the 1st round is more time-consuming as it must be done by the Secretary of State under the current law, but that does not involve voters doing anything differently.

Mainers deserve to have more voice and more choice in electing officials to lead out state. Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 202.