

Cathy Nichols
South Portland

Honorable Senators and Representatives of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

Please vote "no" on LD 580. Early voting severely limits the important information voters receive. Many debates and other candidate events occur in the last month before an election. Providing an early vote minimizes these important political exercises. It also creates unfair bias in supporting incumbents who benefit from those who did not listen to debates, learn of endorsements, or know about last-minute campaign events. For many voters, the status quo is an easy selection. Furthermore, storing ballots for weeks risks their innocent misplacement or damage from disasters.

With easy access to voting absentee, there is no valid reason to provide early voting. Representatives of Maine's voters should never create policy that even inadvertently withholds information or supports incumbents. Last legislative session LD 293 An Act Regarding Early Voting In Person was voted not to pass. I urge you to review those decisions.

It is discouraging to see so few bills jointly sponsored by both Democrats and Republicans. LD 580 and many others to change the way we voted for two centuries are sponsored by Democrats. Bills to minimize these changes and the fraud that they open themselves to are sponsored by Republicans. When not one single person from the opposite party supports a bill from the other party, it makes one wonder if the will of the people is truly represented.

Thank you for considering this testimony.