

Clifton Eames
Bangor

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee:

I am writing in strong support of L.D. 231, "An Act to Establish Open Primaries." If there were ever a good time for Maine to adopt semi-open primary legislation, it is now as the partisan divide continues to widen.

Currently, our two major political parties determine in their closed primaries in June who will be on the ballot in the general election in November, while 32% of our fellow registered voters who are not enrolled in a party have no say in who those candidates will be. Maine is one of only 14 states that have completely closed primaries. It would be much more fair and more democratic if we joined those states with some form of open primaries.

L.D. 231 would allow semi-open primaries so that unenrolled voters could cast one ballot in the party primary of their choice while voters enrolled in a political party would vote in their party's primary, thus nominating a slate of candidates more representative of the total electorate's preferences.

I strongly support L.D. 231 and I hope you will, too.

Clifton Eames
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