

If we ask ourselves if the two-party closed primary system has given us the best candidates the vast majority would say “definitely not”. There must be and is a better way.

The previous congress had an approval rating of a dismal 20% and yet 90% of incumbents who ran for re-election were reinstated. How can this be? The answer lies in our flawed primary election system.

A minuscule segment of those who are eligible to vote to choose our candidates in Maine’s two-party closed primary system. Only 10% of all eligible voters show up for the primary elections. These tend to be the most extremely politically polarized party members. The incumbents are not accountable to you and me, only to the primary voters. In those districts which are reliably red or blue, the election is over after the primary and we, the 70% of independent voters have nothing to say about the outcome.

It is way past time to end Maine’s closed primary election system. Mainers should take the best step for voter freedom and greater candidate choice which is a true open primary. We, taxpayers, pay for these elections. We should own them and not the two political

parties! The best step is to have our legislature vote into law the Top Two Primary Open Election Bill, LD 1121 as proposed by Senator Joe Baldacci. All qualified candidates with or without a party affiliation run in the primary. All certified voters are allowed to participate. If the incumbent candidates do a good job, they are reelected, and if not they are out. The General Election in November will be a contest between the top two vote-getters irrespective of any political party.

Please ask your legislature to get behind LD 1121 “An Act to Create an Open and Streamlined System”

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