

**WILLIAM O. LACASSE**  
**52 Old Neck Road**  
**Scarborough, Maine 04074**

April 11, 2021

**RE: Open Primaries**

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

I am writing in support of LD 231, An Act to Establish Open Primaries. I grew up in Skowhegan, the home of the legendary Senator Margaret Chase Smith. I now live in Scarborough with my wife Lucy. I am a lifelong Democrat who has been proud of our party's longstanding commitment to improving voter access and increasing voter participation. I have also been proud to live in a state which has produced remarkable candidates from both of the major parties in addition to some who have run as Independents.

As I am sure you know, LD 231 would allow semi-open primaries, meaning unenrolled voters would be permitted to cast one ballot in the primary of their choice. Republicans would not be able to vote in Democratic primaries and Democrats would not be able to vote in Republican primaries.

I have many friends and family members who are unenrolled, but who feel strongly about their right and obligation to vote. Presently, these folks are not allowed to vote and express their opinions in the primaries which can be even more important than the general election. Our democracy is made stronger when more people participate. It just makes sense that our unenrolled/independent friends and neighbors should be allowed to participate in taxpayer funded primaries and it is no surprise that 80% of Maine voters support this common sense reform.

Please join me in supporting LD 231.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

William O. LaCasse