

Lloyd Leeman
Bangor

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Lloyd Leeman, of Bangor. I am testify in support of LD 231, "An Act to Establish Open Primaries".

I am, and have been for many years, an unenrolled voter. Unenrolled should not be taken to mean unengaged. I daily keep current on local, state, national, and international events. I have great concern about the many issues we presently have and I want to be able to participate in how we address these needs. Part of the way I do that is by meeting my duty to vote whenever there is an election.

That isn't completely correct. I vote in almost every election. Unfortunately, I am disenfranchised from voting in primaries in Maine. For a variety of reasons, many elections in Maine are really determined in the party primaries. The inability to vote in the primaries effectively eliminates my voice from each of those elections in which I could otherwise participate. I do not believe it is in the best interests of good democracy to have 32% of Maine voters similarly silenced.

While I consider the concerns about "cross voting" to be exaggerated, that does not lessen those concerns for those that have them. LD 231 removes this concern, but does allow unenrolled voters to participate. We will be allowed to vote for the person we believe best represents us without having to enroll in a party which we are concerned may not represent us. This makes for better representation overall.

I am passionately committed to my roll in our representative government. I ask today for your support of LD 231 to allow me, and those like me, to fully participate. Thank you.