

Joe Pickering
Bangor

Written Testimony for Veteran's and Legal Affairs Committee:

At the age of 82, my admin skills ain't so hot. Could you please take a moment of your time to read these Articles I have written on behalf of Mainers for Open Elections ? We truly applaud Senator Joe Baldacci as a Profile of Courage for sponsoring a Top Two Open Primary (Non Partisan Bill) Maine must end its Closed Primary which is like living in a DARKENED ROOM. A true Non Partisan Primary Bill will turn on the LIGHT SWITCH in combination with RCV. Mainers for Open Elections truly hope you will vote it out as OUGHT TO PASS ! The first three words of our Constitution are WE THE PEOPLE not We the Party. Maine Taxpayers pay for our nonpartisan local elections which are public and non-partisan. Our Maine Primaries are also taxpayer funded and they also need to be non-partisan because We the People should own our elections not private corporations. Our parties should have an important role in PARTICIPATING in our elections but they should not own them. Former U.S. Republican Conservative Republican Mickey Edwards wrote a brilliant book called the Parties vs the People (How to turn Republicans and Democrats into Americans) He made many recommendations including that the parties should give up to control our elections for public ownership. Please vote in the best interests of the Maine Voter and the long term interest of your respective party. Vote in favor of Supporting LD 1121.

Thank you.

Joe H. Pickering Jr.
Mainers for Open Elections:

Please consider reading:

Great piece by Joe Pickering, Mainers ...

<https://www.facebook.com/Independentvoting.org/posts/3663509637038181>

Great piece by Joe Pickering, Mainers for Open Elections advocating for nonpartisan primaries. Open primaries will encourage voters to think of ourselves not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans.

Elections & Voting - Secretary of State of Washington (This is how a Top Two Non Partisan Party works in this state.)

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/top2primaryfaq.aspx>

No. Washington does not have party registration as part of voter registration. Voters may not declare a party affiliation when they register or vote.

Summary of LD 1121

An Act to Create an Open and Streamlined Primary System

Introduced by Sen. Baldacci

The bill would provide for open primaries for US Senate, US Congress, Gov, State Senator, and State Representative.

The election will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of June.

All voters who are eligible to vote for that office in the general election are eligible to vote in the open primary for that office.

Nominating petitions are due at the Sec of State at 5 pm on March 15th.

The bill also moved the Presidential Primary to the 2nd Tuesday of June.

The Open primary will have two winners who will appear on the ballot for the general election. The candidate that received a plurality of the vote in the general election will be declared the winner.

Ranked Choice Voting will be employed for the open primary elections as follows:

The ranked choice voting count will be done in rounds.

In each round, the number of votes for each continuing candidate is counted.

If there are three or fewer candidates, the 2 candidates with the most votes are declared the winners of the open primary.

If there are more than 3 candidates, the last place candidate is defeated and a new round begins.

Exhausted ballots are not counted for any continuing candidate. Each ballot counts as one vote for its highest ranking continuing candidate.