

George Simonson  
Harpwell

Good morning. Thank you to the committee. My name is George Simonson, and I live in Harpswell, Maine. I'd like to say a brief word today in support of LD 231 and the related bills. 86% of Americans believe that our government is broken. 43% of us, including fully 50% of Millennials, identify as politically independent — they do not wish to be members of any of the existing parties. Yet they are our future. So it's no wonder that 70% of Americans support open primaries. You should, too. Primaries are conducted with taxpayer money. The closed presidential primaries of 2020, for example, cost taxpayers a quarter billion dollars — yet left out 30 million voters. That's un-American. No one should be required to join a political party to vote. Here in Maine, establishing open primaries would bring us one step close to a true democracy. I urge you to support LD 231 and the related bills. Let's let all voters vote! Thank you.