

February 3rd, 2025

Testimony in opposition to LD 234  
An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting

Chair Hickman, Chair Supica and the distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

My name is Eli Durand-McDonnell, I am from Bar Harbor, Maine and I am the Policy Coordinator at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led, youth movement throughout rural and suburban Maine fighting to win human dignity, equity and a livable future for all. I am writing to you today to ask that you vote ought not to pass on LD 234, An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting.

I believe that eliminating ranked-choice voting would be a large step backwards for Maine's democracy. In my work as the Policy Coordinator at Maine Youth Power, I have the opportunity to speak with young people all across the state. One message that I consistently hear is the desire for more choice at the ballot box. There is a desire to push beyond the status quo and elect candidates based on ideas, values, and visions for our great state, as opposed to electing candidates based simply on party affiliation or as some sort of larger political strategy that we have resigned to follow. Ranked-choice voting gives Mainers young and old more choice at the ballot box.

As a child, I remember asking my mom and dad how it was that we elected a governor, not once, but twice, that did not win more than 50% of the vote. It didn't seem logical to me that a candidate with such a small percentage of the votes should speak for so many Mainers that didn't share his values. Years later, as I write this testimony, I still share that sentiment with my younger self. We should have the most choice possible at the ballot box, and not have to worry about election results that do not reflect the electorate.

We have worked so long and so hard to become a national leader and inspiration for ranked-choice voting, why would we step back from a system that gives voters more freedom?

I urge you to oppose LD 234, An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Eli Durand-McDonnell