

Jeanne Marquis  
China, Maine  
LD 234

Against LD 234 : An Act to eliminate Rank Choice Voting

Dear Chairpersons Hickman and Supica and the honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,

I urge you to vote against LD 234: An Act to Eliminate Rank Choice Voting. Rank choice voting makes the democracy in the state of Maine more equitable and gives our voters more choice at the ballot box. Taking this tool away would be detrimental to the state of Maine.

Rank choice voting results in a winner that is the most preferred candidate and the candidate who wins with over 50 percent of the votes. Without Rank choice in the traditional system, the winner receives less than 50 percent in races with more than two candidates, meaning we are led by a minority of the electorate.

Rank choice encourages a multi-party system and greater voter turnout because voters feel their vote actually counts. Rank choice voting also decreases the phenomena of the "protest vote," when a voter votes for a candidate they do not believe in or abstains from voting entirely, so the outcome more accurately reflects the true wishes of the people.

Rank choice voting also saves the state money and time by eliminating the need for run-off races when results are tight.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote against LD234. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Jeanne Marquis  
China, Maine