

February 3, 2025

Sen. Craig Hickman, Chair
Rep. Laura Supica, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
Maine State Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 234 An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting

Chair Hickman, Chair Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs: My name is David O'Brien and I am Policy Director for RepresentUs, the nation's leading nonpartisan anti-corruption organization. RepresentUs is submitting testimony today in opposition to LD 234.

RepresentUs is a nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to the idea that the government should be representative of and accountable to the people. It advocates for policies to strengthen our democracy and provides activists with the resources and training to bring meaningful change.

This bill would eliminate the use of Ranked Choice Voting in Maine for elections in which it is used -- primary elections and general elections for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and the President.

In 2016, the voters of Maine had their voices heard on this issue, and they approved the use of Ranked Choice Voting by referendum by a vote of 52-48%. Maine has successfully used Ranked Choice Voting in elections since 2018. Voters have become accustomed to using RCV and have come to understand its benefits.

Maine has seen what happens in elections when RCV is not used. Having an election with three or more candidates, without the opportunity to rank preferences and use RCV to determine a final vote, has meant that candidates who are opposed by the majority of voters end up winning the office. Electing an individual that most voters opposed in the election is antithetical to our democratic values.

Ranked Choice Voting also allows candidates from outside the two major parties to compete and address the concerns of voters that may not be addressed by major parties. This helps create a richer dialogue on the issues and increases the diversity of views available for voters to consider.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 234.

David O'Brien
Policy Director
RepresentUs