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LD 234

Rob Peale 2025 Ranked Choice Voting Testimony

Senator Craig Hickman, Representative Laura Supica and members of the Committee on Veterans and Financial Affairs.


My name is Rob Peale and I am a Readfield resident.

It is imperative that Maine protect and expand ranked choice voting for state and federal offices. Maine's tradition of multi-candidate races with party candidates and independents requires rank choice voting to maximize the chances that we elect the candidates with the broadest support. Republicans clearly understand this since they use ranked choice voting to select their own party leaders.

Rank choice voting does not favor any party or group over another. No party or group-supported candidate should win office by taking advantage of split support among their opponents.

Ranked choice voting is conceptually easy to understand since everyone is used to making choices in their daily lives. Filling out the ballots is straightforward for anyone capable of voting and surveys of voters have demonstrated this.

Opponents of ranked choice voting seem to me to be willing to sacrifice what works best for their voters for short term political advantage, or because ranked choice voting might make the election process more difficult for them as candidates. However, we should design our voting systems based on what is best for the citizenry, not what is best for politicians. In the long term we are all better off with ranked choice voting than with the old plurality voting system.

 Thank you.