

To: Your Honors of Veteran and Legal Affairs

Public Hearing Date 02.03.2025

Regarding LD 234 - An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting

My name is Jennifer Ruggiero. I am a Cape Elizabeth resident. I am writing this testimony to oppose LD 234.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a game changer to ensure the candidate with the most support gets elected. It's easy to say RCV is too complicated, it doesn't make sense, it delays results, or it negates the power of a person's vote. To that I counter, uninformed complaints are easy, complaints in response to change are easy, complaints when any amount of effort is involved that differs from what someone is used to is easy. However, understanding the systemic value and up / downstream impacts of a change is hard. Change, especially when it levels the playing field, can be undesired. RCV is no different. It was a complex change that took place in the Maine voting system. But it was one for the better. I've seen a change in candidates getting elected, for the positive since we've switched. I take pride in knowing, every time I vote that candidates with the most support will be elected, even if they are my second choice. My voice carries further because I have the option to indicate my preference on every candidate. Ranked Choice Voting should be a system we keep.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Ruggiero
Cape Elizabeth
LD 234

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