

Leah Parrott
Denmark
LD 1527

My name is Leah Parrott and I am a resident of Denmark, ME. In December, I moved back to Maine from Boston, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. As a politically active person, I was determined to vote in both the 2020 and 2024 presidential elections, along with the 2022 midterms, while away at college. I noticed that the mail-in ballots I requested three times during my college career did not include the postage, each stamp costing \$0.73, to send the ballot back to Maine. I am a very politically active person, but even I found purchasing postage to be a nuisance, one that could easily discourage people with less political fervor or economic means from voting. Besides that, it is a poll tax, made illegal by the 24th Amendment, ratified in 1964. There should be no financial barrier to participating in our elections for Maine voters temporarily living out of state for school, work, medical treatment, or caring for a family member. LD 1527, "An Act to Require Postage Prepaid Envelopes Be Provided for the Return of Absentee Ballots, would abolish this illegal poll tax and remove the arbitrary barrier from election participation. At a time when faith in our democracy is in crisis, there has never been a more important time to empower Mainers to voice their opinion with their vote.