

Lisa Belanger  
North Yarmouth  
LD 1666

To: The Honorable Craig Hickman, Laura Supica and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

From: Lisa Belanger, North Yarmouth resident

Subject: Support for LD 1666 – “An Act to Include the Ranked-Choice Election Method for Special Election the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes”

Date: 4/24/25

My name is Lisa Belanger and I am a resident of North Yarmouth. I am testifying in support of LD 1666. Polls have shown that many voters including myself, found the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) method to be easy to use in the 2016 and 2018 elections. It also provided me with much more clarity in the voting process by clearly represented the majority vote without having to worry about spoilers or splitting votes. I believe, as others do, that the Maine Supreme Court got it wrong with its 2017 advisory ruling that prevented RCV for these types of elections citing non-compliance with plurality requirements. Let's instead get it right and follow the Alaska Supreme Court who in 2024 found that RCV elections comply with plurality requirements.

In closing, please vote in support of this RCV expansion bill and take action to clarify that the candidate with plurality ranking is the winner of the final RCV tally. It is the right thing to do for the voters of Maine. Thank-you.