

TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: April 7, 2025

RE: LD 1666 An Act to Include in the Ranked Choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Changes.

My name is Julie Ann Canniff. I am a resident of Falmouth and a member of the League of Women Voters and I am writing in SUPPORT of LD 1666. I have been an Election Observer for the League in the last four elections. I regularly check in with the Warden during the voting process to ask how voters are responding to changes in Maine's voting laws such as the semi-open primary and ranked choice voting. In the recent 2024 elections the Warden told me that only five ballots had to be re-done because of confusion over ranked-choice voting. When I asked, the Warden how the residents of Gorham liked this change, she said the majority of voters appreciated being able to vote for the person they liked and a second person they could accept.

Ranked Choice Voting is the best system for giving individual voters a voice in our elections. It gives state residents truly representative elected leaders; it opens the field to new candidates, some of whom are new to voters, it gives independent voters a reason to participate, and it eliminates the argument that voting for the candidate you like is a wasted vote. More than all of these reasons, I want to KNOW that the person who wins has received a majority of ALL the votes cast. I no longer want a governor, state senator or state representative who wins with only 40% of the state vote.

The Maine Supreme Court needs to reconsider their advisory opinion from 2017 and extend Rank Choice Voting to the governor, state senate and state representative races. Please vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 1666.