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LD 1666

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for 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 Related Changes.

I strongly support this method as a way to increase participation in elected political offices. When a new or relatively unknown candidate enters the election process they can be seen as a spoiler by candidates or parties who are better known or better funded. This discourages new ideas and possible candidates from offering to be of public service. But Ranked choice methods create a counting process where a voter can support an unlikely winner and their vote is not thrown away. If their candidate does not receive enough votes they have the second or third choices to help contribute to an election outcome where their perfect candidate might not win but a "good enough" one might win. Our mostly two party and primary system is leaving us with limited options. In our complicated world we need new ideas, new people and we need to not feel afraid that voting for our best choice is "throwing our vote" away.

You may hear concerns about how complicated the ranked choice method is. I believe this is just a learning curve moment! More education and practice will help all of us to use this method to have our voices be fully heard. Thank you