

Andrew Kessler  
Standish  
LD 1666

Ranked Choice Voting has already proven itself as a fairer, more democratic way to elect leaders in Maine's federal elections. By allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference, RCV ensures that winners have majority support and encourages more civil, issue-focused campaigns. Maine was the first state in the nation to adopt RCV statewide, and it has strengthened voter confidence by eliminating the "spoiler effect" and giving people more voice in crowded races. It's time to bring those same benefits to our state-level elections, including for Governor and members of the legislature.

Currently, candidates can win state races with less than a majority of the vote, which undermines the principle of majority rule. In gubernatorial elections, especially, Maine has a long history of governors being elected with less than 50% support. This can lead to leadership that doesn't truly represent the will of the people. Expanding RCV would ensure that our state leaders reflect the preferences of a broader segment of voters. It would also empower voters to support their preferred candidates without fear of wasting their vote or unintentionally helping elect someone they strongly oppose.

Expanding RCV to all state-level elections would make Maine's democracy more representative, more participatory, and more responsive. Voters already understand how RCV works and have used it successfully in federal and local races. Implementing it across the board would bring consistency to our election process, reduce polarization, and encourage a wider range of candidates to run for office. It's a logical next step for a state that values civic engagement and innovation in governance.