

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

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: LD 1149 An Act to Require an individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting.

Testimony: OUGHT NOT TO PASS

My name is Julie Ann Canniff. I am a resident of Falmouth and a member of the League of Women Voters. I am writing to OPPOSE LD 1149. I was an Election Observer in Windham for the June 2024 election. I always make a point to talk with the petition gatherers and had a conversation with the person collecting signatures for the "Voter ID" petition.

I asked him to explain what the proposed legislation required, he responded by saying "the Maine legislature kills this bill every session, so we are just gathering signatures so Maine voters have a chance to vote on it in November 2025."

I asked why he thought Maine needed to require voters to show an ID before being allowed to vote? He responded that "Maine needed to protect against voter fraud."

I asked if he was aware of voter fraud in Windham elections? He said no.

I asked if he had evidence that there was voter fraud in other Maine towns? He said, "no, but probably in Portland," and then repeated that the petition simply gives Maine voters a chance to vote on it.

My take-aways from this experience are:

1. The petition gatherers did not appear to know how Voter ID would change all Maine elections:
 - a. Voters would need to present a government issued ID or current passport in order to vote. Student IDs or Tribal IDs would not be accepted.
 - b. Voters wanting an absentee ballot would need to bring a government issued ID or current passport to their town clerk to collect their ballot.
 - c. Maine voters could not request an absentee ballot over the phone or register with their town clerk to have their ballot automatically mailed to them as my husband and I do.
 - d. The legislation limits the use and number of ballot drop boxes.
2. There is no fraud in Maine elections. Having observed at the last four elections, I can attest that Maine has safeguards in place to prevent fraud, cyber-attacks or any other attempts to subvert our elections.
3. LD 1149 would place restrictions on every type of Maine voter, especially seniors, people with disabilities, and voters who live in rural towns.

LD 1149 is a voter suppression effort imported from outside of the state. I urge members of the Veteran and Legal Affairs Committee to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS and send the bill to the November ballot so Maine voters can defeat it outright.