



May 2nd, 2025

Testimony in opposition to LD1149: An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting

Good morning Chair Hickman, Chair Supica and the distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

My name is Eli Durand-McDonnell, I am from Bar Harbor, Maine and I am the Policy Coordinator at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led, youth movement throughout rural and suburban Maine fighting to win human dignity, equity and a livable future for all. I am here today on behalf of my organization to ask that you vote ought not to pass on LD 1149 and send this measure to the ballot where voters can reject it.

LD1149 would severely limit absentee voting in Maine, which, in the opinion of Maine Youth Power, would make Maine elections significantly less democratic. These changes include reducing drop boxes, preventing voters from calling their town clerks to request a ballot, and cutting the time period for early absentee voting by two days, amongst a host of other restrictive provisions. We believe that these sorts of changes will only make voting less accessible in Maine, a state with a proud history of high voter turnout and accessible elections.

Of particular concern to Maine Youth Power are the changes that this legislation would make to the number of drop boxes in a given town, and how this would impact student voters. Currently, the town of Orono has two drop boxes, one at the town office, and a second on UMaine's campus, allowing students to more easily cast a ballot. Should this law come into effect, this second location would be removed, as towns will be limited to only having a single drop box at their town office. Furthermore, students are currently allowed to use their student ID's as a form of identification when registering to vote, yet these are not included in the list of acceptable forms of identification in the proposed measure. Young people already have lower participation rates in our elections, and throwing up these additional barriers could further inhibit students from getting involved with our democratic process.

Once again, we urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 1149 and send this measure to the ballot.

Thank you for your consideration,
Maine Youth Power staff