

April 29, 2025

RE: LD1446 – RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine to Lower the Voting Age to 16 Years of Age

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Douglass Moore, and I live in Sabattus. I am testifying in support of LD
1446.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of LD 1446, the proposed constitutional
amendment to lower the voting age in Maine to 16. As someone who has been actively
engaged in politics since middle school, I can tell you firsthand that young people are
more informed and capable of making thoughtful decisions about their communities and
their future than they are often given credit for.

When I was 13 years old, I was more politically informed than many adults I know today.
At that age, I understood the issues, followed local and national elections, and actively
participated in discussions about policy. This engagement didn't stop with just being
informed—it fueled my desire to make a real impact on the world around me, and I'm
not alone. Many teenagers, especially those who are civically engaged and passionate
about the world they are inheriting, are ready to step up and vote.

Reducing the voting age to 16 would not only empower young people but would also
help ensure that the voices of those most impacted by decisions today—such as
policies on climate change, education, and the economy—are heard. Young voters
bring fresh perspectives to the table and have a vested interest in shaping the future, as
they will live with the long-term consequences of decisions made today.

Additionally, studies and examples from other regions and countries show that young
voters tend to be well-informed and participate in elections in meaningful ways. A
reduction in the voting age would encourage lifelong political engagement, helping to
create a more informed and active electorate. By lowering the voting age, we are
making a statement that we believe in the capabilities of young people to contribute to
society and that we trust them to be part of the democratic process.

To be clear, this isn't just about giving young people the right to vote—it's about
acknowledging their role in the future of our state and country. I ask you to think about

how, as a society, we have consistently underestimated the capabilities of young people to effect change. Let us correct that by supporting this bill and giving 16- and 17-year-olds the chance to have a say in the decisions that shape their lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly urge you to support LD 1446.