

George Schelling  
Orland  
LD 38

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May 2, 2025

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

The Honorable Craig Hickman

The Honorable Laura Supica

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Re: LD 38 An Act Requiring Photographic Identification for Voting

Esteemed legislators:

My name is George Schelling. I live in Orland. I am writing in opposition to LD 38.

At the outset, it must be noted that it is a virtual certainty that voters will be asked similar questions in a referendum vote this November. By enacting this bill, Maine voters would be deprived of the opportunity to vote on these measures. Why would the Legislature usurp this opportunity to allow the people of Maine decide the issue? Besides, the bill is a bad idea.

I am sure we can all agree that bills should not be passed unless a careful analysis finds the benefits outweigh the costs.

There is virtually no benefit. Maine has had virtually no instances of voter fraud. Our town clerks know their jobs, know the population and are vigilant about scrupulous enforcement of voting laws.

The costs include an onerous burden on individuals and on the State of Maine.

The procedure for a person without a qualifying ID to vote are significant and would likely cause many people to abandon the effort to participate in this critical function of government. Please see the careful analyses carried out by the Brennan Center and others. Those individuals are more likely to be old and poor. Disenfranchising them, which would be the effect of the bill, is profoundly undemocratic.

The bill also imposes undue and unnecessary burden on the State of Maine, to develop and oversee forms and procedures for effectuating this law

Please kill this bill.

Respectfully,  
George C. Schelling