

Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs LD 1196, LD 1365, LD 1477 RESOLUTIONS, Proposing Amendments to the Constitution of Maine to expand the use of Ranked-choice Voting for Governor and Members of the Legislature.

April 10th, 2019

Senator Luchini, Representative Schneck, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on LD 1196, LD 1365, LD 1477 RESOLUTIONS, Proposing Amendments to the Constitution of Maine to expand the use of Ranked-choice Voting for Governor and Members of the Legislature in general elections.

My name is Julia Fitz-Randolph and I live in Pemaquid. I am here today on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN) as a person of faith committed to our shared belief in strengthening democracy by protecting and enhancing voter participation.

Ranked Choice Voting has been endorsed by Maine Unitarian Universalists throughout its complicated and comprehensive journey to become law in 2018. We have collected signatures, testified at public hearings, written letters to editors, rallied at the State House, and had conversations with many of you about the importance of creating a more positive campaign environment and greater support for the democratic process.

LD 1196, LD 1365, LD 1477 offer various options to honor the intention of the majority of Mainers who want Ranked Choice Voting in all state elections.

The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network supports all Resolutions for amendments to the Maine constitution to expand Ranked-choice voting.

We believe the bedrock of voting for your preferred candidate and then having your second or third choice be considered, enhances turnout, encourages civility, and levels the playing field to include everyone's voice.

And any doubts about Mainer's commitment to Ranked-choice Voting will once again be decided at the ballot box once an amendment to the state constitution expanding it to include the races for governor and state legislators in general elections is passed through the legislature.

For the record, I am compelled to state our obvious opposition to any bill that seeks to repeal or delay Maine's Ranked-choice Voting laws including LD 1213, LD 1447, and LD 1454.

Forging more opportunities to expand Ranked-choice Voting will continue to have Maine lead the way in creating a powerful platform to enhance voter turnout and achieve civil discourse in our electoral system.

For this this and the reasons articulated above, the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network urges you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1196, LD 1365, LD 1477. Thank you for your consideration.