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Implement ranked-choice voting

To the editor:

Maine voters have clearly indicated that they want to replenish the clean elections fund by cutting wasteful corporate tax loopholes, make it available in races for the governor's office at the next election, and by approving ranked-choice voting at the last election, they expect the secretary of state to implement ranked-choice voting in the 2018 elections.

There appears to be some bipartisan resistance to all of these reforms that is dispiriting, compounded by attempts to undercut the people's ability to make reforms through referenda which might open up the political process to more points of view. This is a shame.

As someone who, as a volunteer, gathered signatures in Damariscotta for both of these issues on several occasions, and engaged in phone banking for ranked-choice voting at the most recent election, I urge our legislators and state officers to respect the vote of the people.

There was no need to ask the Maine Supreme Judicial Court for an advisory opinion on ranked-choice voting, and in any event such an opinion would not be legally binding - it is just a delaying tactic to try to evade the responsibility to implement ranked-choice voting in the 2018 elections.

There is substantial legal support for the constitutionality of RCV in any event, available at rcvmaine.com/constitution. For example, concerning how to read our state constitution, Dmitry Bam, constitutional law professor at the University of Maine School of Law, has written: "The Plurality Clause thus refers the Legislature's duty to declare a winner of the election based

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on the returned results after they have been duly cast and calculated. The Clause says nothing about when the vote counting must stop, what happens before those results are returned, or how the Secretary of State should go about 'determin(ing) the number of votes duly cast for the office of Governor.'"

I urge your readers to contact the secretary of state and their state legislators and ask that they implement ranked-choice voting without further delay, and to fully fund the Maine Clean Elections Fund.

Bruce L. Rockwood
Damariscotta

Giving, intelligent, innovative

To the editor:

I've known Laurie Mahan for over 15 years and she is by far one of the people I respect the most in this town. She cares for children and does it in a way that you know it isn't just a job, it's her passion. Always going above and beyond to share her creative talents and her love of life to enhance children's lives. I am so thankful she helped care for my children.

In the past few years, Laurie has been working tirelessly to try to save our long-standing Olde Bristol Days celebration. She has made people aware of the parade by fundraising in ways that have brought the community together, supporting a great cause.

As a person, Laurie is a giving, intelligent, innovative, big-picture thinker who would be an asset to the parks and recreation position. She loves this town and the people in it.

Michele Fink
Damariscotta