



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Jill Ward
Jmward23@gmail.com
207-317-6310 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 13, 2017

Non-Partisan Groups Endorse People's Veto on Ranked Choice Voting Roll-back

PORTLAND - The League of Women Voters of Maine (LWVME) and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) endorse the People's Veto campaign to restore ranked choice voting for 2018 and urge the legislature and election administrators to prepare to implement ranked choice voting (RCV) ahead of the June election.

Last month the Legislature voted to delay implementation of RCV and repeal the citizen-initiated law unless a constitutional amendment is passed by 2021. The LWVME and MCCE responded in a joint statement: "Less than a year after the second largest majority of voters in the history of citizen initiatives approved ranked choice voting, the legislature has denied voters the benefits of the law we enacted for the 2018 election cycle. These attacks on the citizen-initiated law effectively dismiss the people's voice as expressed less than a year ago."

The People Veto petition, if successful, would restore ranked choice voting for the 2018 primary elections for state and federal offices, and the 2018 general elections for federal offices, together with granting rulemaking authority for the Secretary of State. At the same time, it repeals RCV for the races that the Maine Supreme Court has advised are unconstitutional, eliminating the threat of election-by-litigation.

"The People's Veto presents the best and clearest path to a defensible outcome that respects both the will of Maine voters and the opinion of the court," said Jill Ward, President of the League of Women Voters of Maine. "Winning the People's Veto is a challenging but achievable goal. We support efforts of the Committee for Ranked Choice Voting and its long-standing leadership in this latest endeavor."

If the required signatures are collected, the People's Veto will also freeze implementation of the roll-back, and the June primary elections would be conducted using RCV.

“The sooner the signatures are submitted, the sooner the state can begin to address the challenges of implementing RCV for the 2018 primaries,” said John Brautigam, Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. “These challenges will require serious nonpartisan effort, and we look forward to playing an independent, thoughtful role in the public interest to that end.”

#####n