



League of Women Voters of Maine
Jill Ward, President
jmward23@gmail.com

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections
John Brautigam, Executive Director
john@mainecleanelections.org

October 23, 2017

For immediate release

The League of Women Voters of Maine and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections issued the following joint statement in response to the legislature's action today on LD 1646:

"In our democracy, legislative decisions should be measured against the standard set by the will of the voters. By that standard, the legislature's actions today failed. Less than a year after the second largest majority of voters in the history of citizen initiatives approved ranked choice voting, the legislature is poised to deny voters the benefits of the law we enacted for the 2018 election cycle. The amended version of LD 1646 also sets in motion a process that is likely to result in the automatic repeal of the entire RCV law in 2021. These attacks on the citizen-initiated law effectively dismiss the people's voice as expressed less than a year ago. We urge our lawmakers to take whatever steps may be available to them to reverse this decision, and preserve and protect the citizen-approved law."

Together the League of Women Voters of Maine and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections have been working on democracy issue in Maine for over 100 years. Both organizations endorsed RCV and worked for its enactment in 2016, and have been advocating for full implementation of the law this year.

###