



The Maine Heritage Policy Center Testimony to Support LD 53 “An Act To Clarify Local Referendum Ballots”

Senator Claxton, Representative Martin, and distinguished members of the Committee On State and Local Government, my name is Adam Crepeau and I serve as the Policy Analyst for The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding LD 53, “An Act To Clarify Local Referendum Ballots.”

In almost every election cycle, several referendums are proposed to change municipal and state laws. In many cases, the use of sequential numbers in both state and local referendums become confusing to voters when they go to the ballot box. When using sequential numbers for both, a ballot initiative at the state-level may have the same numerical identifier as a ballot at the local level. The Maine Heritage Policy Center supports changing municipal initiatives and referendum questions to being listed as sequential capital letters of the alphabet.

Using sequential capital letters on municipal ballot measures would help to alleviate the confusion between state and local ballot items. If this proposal becomes law, we would no longer see signs on the side of the road that bear the same verbiage but have nothing to do with one another.

This is just one of many reforms The Maine Heritage Policy Center would like to see made to the referendum process in Maine. There are several common-sense reforms being proposed this session that would aid in easing confusion at the ballot box. We hope that when the time comes, the committee will consider supporting significant reforms to the state referendum process.

I urge the committee to vote “Ought to Pass” on this measure. Thank you.