

PRESS RELEASE 06/15/2020 Contact: Jen Lancaster, Communications Manager Jen@lwvme.org | 859.753.0425

People's Veto Effort Submit Signatures

[PORTLAND, ME] - Today, the People's Veto petition to halt the use of Ranked Choice Voting in the November election submitted their signatures. The League of Women Voters of Maine continues to support the use of Ranked Choice Voting in Maine elections.

If the Secretary of State confirms submission of sufficient signatures, Ranked Choice Voting will not be used in the Presidential Election this November. Ranked Choice Voting will still be used in races for the US Senate and the US House of Representatives.

Ranked Choice Voting has been the subject of two in-depth statewide campaigns and was endorsed by a strong majority of voters both times. The implementation of Ranked Choice Voting has worked well, and the polls show that voters like to use it.

Ranked Choice Voting has also enhanced the quality of political campaigns and has given voters more choices and more power. The voters are likely to reaffirm Ranked Choice Voting if it is on the ballot again in November.

"It would be regrettable if the People's Veto effort, which has been funded by out-of-state interests, had the effect of preventing voters from using Ranked Choice Voting in the November presidential vote," said John Brautigam, the Legal Advisor for the League of Women Voters of Maine.

The 129th legislature passed LD 1803 that extends Ranked Choice Voting to presidential elections. It became law without the Governor's signature last month and will go into effect in July, 2020. Under the new law, Maine will tally votes for U.S. President in November, 2020, using ranked choice voting and award its four electors based on the RCV tally, two statewide, and one each per Congressional District.

The League of Women Voters of Maine is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.