



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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TO: The Honorable Senator Ned Claxon
The Honorable Representative Danny Martin, Co-chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

DATE: February 4, 2019

RE: LD 53 An Act to Clarify Local Referendum Ballots

My name is Polly Ward. I'm a resident of Yarmouth. I am here today as a volunteer representing members of the League of Women Voters of Maine.

The League is proudly nonpartisan. Since our founding 99 years ago, we have worked to educate voters and encourage participation in our democracy. We support measures that enhance the smooth conduct of elections and promote public confidence in election outcomes.

In keeping with this mission, the League wholeheartedly supports LD 53. To put it simply, LD 53 is good for voters. It is a common-sense solution to a demonstrated problem.

When voters are faced with both state and local referenda in the same election, the identical designations of "Question 1," "Question 2," and so on inevitably cause some degree of confusion. By simply changing local referenda designations to "Question A," "Question B," and so forth, this confusion is completely eliminated. Supporters and opponents of ballot questions will be able to more clearly communicate with voters, and voters will benefit from clarity both during the campaign and while in the voting booth.

We appreciate Senator Sanborn's initiative to improve clarity in Maine elections, and we encourage all committee members to vote Ought to Pass on LD 53.