



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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December 8, 2014

Senator Roger J. Katz, Chair
Special Elections Committee
Maine State Senate
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Maine Senate District 25 Election

Dear Senator Katz:

On behalf of the board and the members of the League of Women Voters of Maine, I am writing this letter to you in your capacity as Chair of the Special Elections Committee. The League of Women Voters has been working for almost 100 years, registering voters, encouraging civic participation, and upholding the highest standards in the conduct of elections.

Along with many others, the League is concerned about the issues that have surfaced in the election in Maine Senate District 25. Those issues include disputed ballots, missing ballots from Cumberland and Westbrook, and 21 more ballots than incoming voters from Long Island. The League of Women Voters does not advocate for any particular outcome of the election, but we do advocate for a nonpartisan process that counts every vote and preserves the integrity of the election.

Maine people believe in democracy, and we are justifiably proud of our election systems. We have a long track record of high voter turnout. Maine people believe that our elections work and that elections matter. We must not allow a cynical view of elections to trump that faith. We don't expect that problems should never occur or that issues should never arise, but we do aspire to a process whereby those issues are addressed in such a manner that our faith in this system remains justified.

To that end, we ask the Committee to put the interests of voters ahead of party interests, set a high standard, and investigate thoroughly. We urge you to take testimony from the election wardens and election clerks in all the affected jurisdictions and from all those in the chain of custody for the ballots in question. We were encouraged by the tone and substance of your organizing meeting last week, and we hope the aspirations expressed for a thorough process and a unanimous report will be met.

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Some in the media have called for a nonpartisan structure for handling election appeals, and we would agree, but in the meantime, we are relying on the Special Elections Committee under your leadership to approach the issues at hand with fairness and to engage in a transparent and thorough process that preserves the public's faith that the candidate with the majority of the votes will be declared the winner.

Sincerely,



Barbara McDade
President

cc: Senator André Cushing
Senator William Diamond
Senator Stanley Gerzofsky
Senator Dawn Hill
Senator Garrett Mason
Senator Thomas Saviello