



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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TO: The Honorable Senator Lisa T. Marraché
The Honorable Representative John L. Patrick, Co-chairs
The Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

RE: LD 1150 An Act To Establish Random Audits of Voting Machines

Sponsor: Rep. Pingree

The League of Women Voters of Maine ("LWVME") is pleased to submit the following testimony neither for nor against LD 1150.

The League believes every citizen's right to vote must be protected. To do this, we support the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable and accessible. Recent controversies in other states regarding certain kinds of electronic voting equipment and problems with other voting procedures have eroded public confidence in the integrity of our elections.

The requirement that a mandatory random audit be conducted is essential to restoring the voters' confidence in the vote count. We support routine audits in randomly selected precincts in every election, and we believe that the results should be published.

That said, the League does not take a stand on the particulars of this bill since we have not studied what percentage of votes would constitute a statistically appropriate random audit or by what detailed procedures such audits should be conducted

We do, however, believe that using an optional tax check-off to fund this kind of mandatory audit would be inappropriate, and we are concerned about the dilution effect that would result from the proliferation of programs funded this way.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider our remarks and appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Ann Luther, President
League of Women Voters of Maine
18 April 2007