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Joseph E. Rafferty

Maine

State Senator, SD-034 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

ME Legislative Scorecard 2025

✓ Pro-Freedom ✗ Anti-Freedom — Did not Vote

Vote

1. Creates new restrictions on firearms lacking serial numbers, and bans "undetectable firearms" in Maine.

—

Pro-Freedom: **No** · LD1126 · 06/25/2025

2. Updates the state's renewable and clean-energy laws by setting a 2040 goal that 90 percent of retail electricity sales come from renewable resources and 10 percent from "clean resources," including certain nuclear, hydro, and low-emission generators.

✗

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD1868 · 06/17/2025

3. Designates January 6 as "A Day to Remember."

✗

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD702 · 05/22/2025

4. Submits two formal applications under Article V of the U.S. Constitution asking Congress to call constitutional conventions.

✓

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **No** · SP0010 · 05/22/2025

5. Expands ranked-choice voting (RCV) to Maine's general and special elections for governor, state senators, and state representatives, replacing traditional plurality voting for those offices.

✗

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · LD1666 · 06/18/2025

6. Declares that if Congress does not propose a constitutional amendment by December 31, 2026 to regulate money in politics, then Maine will formally apply for an Article V convention.

✓

Pro-Freedom: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · SP0173 · 03/18/2025

Scorecard Votes: 40%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Ghost-gun Ban

LD1126 requires unfinished frames or receivers—and any firearm without a serial number—to be serialized by a federally licensed firearms dealer, and makes it illegal to possess, manufacture, import, sell, or transfer unserialized firearms or components except in limited circumstances.

The Maine State Senate passed LD1126 on June 25, 2025 by a vote of 17 to 16. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation violates the God-given right to self-defense protected by the Second and Ninth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Banning anyone from engaging in firearm production restricts citizens from exercising this right.

2. Renewable-energy Goals

LD1868 updates the state's renewable and clean-energy laws by setting a 2040 goal that 90 percent of retail electricity sales come from renewable resources and 10 percent from "clean resources," including certain nuclear, hydro, and low-emission generators. The law creates a new "Class III" clean-resource category with a phased-in portfolio requirement for competitive electricity providers (ramping from 1 percent in 2031 to 10 percent by 2040).

The Maine State Senate passed LD1868 on June 17, 2025 by a vote of 19 to 16. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill entrenches state-directed energy planning and advances the United Nations' Agenda 2030 goals. Instead of allowing the free market to determine the most efficient and affordable sources of electricity, LD1868 empowers state agencies to dictate what qualifies as acceptable energy, manipulate the market through credits and mandates, and channel taxpayer dollars into politically favored industries.

3. January 6 Commemoration

LD702 designates January 6 as "A Day to Remember." Each year, the governor must issue a proclamation honoring what the law describes as the "resilience of democracy" during the events of January 6, 2021, and encourage citizens to reflect on "democratic values" and "civic responsibility."

The Maine State Senate passed LD702 on May 22, 2025 by a vote of 19 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this measure enshrines into state law a misleading and politically charged narrative of January 6. Rather than promoting genuine civic understanding, LD702 requires the governor and public institutions to reinforce a storyline that ignores federal involvement, selective media framing, and the serious due-process violations.

4. Con-Con: Term Limits

SP10 submits two formal applications under Article V of the U.S. Constitution to propose term limits for members of the U.S. House and Senate and to propose term limits for U.S. Supreme Court justices.

The Maine State Senate rejected SP10 on May 22, 2025 by a vote of 18 to 15 (a two-thirds majority of the Senate was required for the bill to pass). We have assigned pluses to the nays because term limits restrict the people's right to choose their own representatives—and even more concerning is the call for an Article V "convention of the states." Despite claims of limitation, such a convention could easily become a runaway convention with authority to rewrite or fundamentally alter the U.S. Constitution, endangering the very safeguards that restrain government power. Article V was designed to correct structural flaws, not fix the moral failings of elected officials who disregard their oaths. Rather than risk the Constitution itself, states should use their lawful authority under Article VI to enforce it as written and nullify unconstitutional federal acts.

5. Ranked-choice-voting Expansion

LD1666 expands RCV to Maine's general and special elections for governor, state senators, and state representatives, replacing traditional plurality voting for those offices. It updates ballot instructions, and tabulation procedures, clarifying how rankings, rounds, and eliminated candidates are handled.

The Maine State Senate passed LD1666 on June 18, 2025 by a vote of 21 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the nays because RCV undermines the electorate's ability to choose the best candidate. By design, RCV favors moderate-to-leftist candidates who often fail to uphold the Constitution.

6. Article V Convention for Campaign Finance

SP173 declares that if Congress does not propose a constitutional amendment by December 31, 2026 to regulate money in politics—including overturning *Citizens United*—then Maine will formally apply for an Article V convention.

The Maine State Senate voted to uphold a committee recommendation "not to pass" SP173 on March 18, 2025 by a vote of 19 to 16. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because SP173 rightly rejects the push for a federal constitutional amendment that would restrict political speech under the guise of "campaign finance reform." Efforts to regulate or limit money in politics—whether through contribution caps, mandated disclosures, or overturning *Citizens United*—amount to government control over how Americans may speak and spend their own resources to influence elections.