



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: April 18, 2023

To: Senator Tim Nangle, Senate Chair
Representative Holly Stover, House Chair
And members of the State and Local Government Committee

From: Karly Perry, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks Association

Re: LD 1336 – An Act to Increase Transparency in Municipal Ballot Referenda
Expenditures

Position: Neither For Nor Against

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is neither for nor against LD 1336 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your committee.

Some clerks supported the concept of all towns being held to the same standards and pointed out that the reporting forms would be designed by the Ethics Commission. However, most expressed concern about small communities who have no experience with filing campaign finance reports having to administer this program, since current municipal campaign finance reporting is only mandated in municipalities with a population over 15,000. Many felt that the \$5,000 threshold was very low and could be easily met with a few TV or newspaper ads, which would result in more towns having to administer this reporting. Clerks expressed concern that the reporting deadline would fall around a November election, which would only add more tasks to an already busy time for small offices that have limited staffing.

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association appreciates the opportunity to share its testimony with the Committee. Should any questions arise, please feel free to contact me at townclerk@westbathmaine.gov or by phone at (207) 443-4342.