

## Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

### In Opposition To

### LD 313 - An Act to Improve Voter Confidence in Electronic Ballot Counting by Requiring Ballots to Contain Unique Identifiers

February 10, 2025

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Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 313 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, the LPC guides MMA's advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

Our LPC participated in an email poll as well as a Zoom meeting, if they were able, to discuss the merits of the proposal bill. Their position was determined by a majority vote of all LPC members who responded to the poll or were present at the meeting. MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine.

Municipal officials overwhelmingly agree that adding a unique identifier to a secret ballot defeats the very purpose of a secret ballot and would complicate a process that has already proven to work well. This bill also has the potential to erode confidence in the electoral process and lead voters into thinking their vote is being tracked.

Ultimately, there is a lot of confusion around the intent of LD 313 and although that may be to enhance election integrity, tying a unique identifier to a ballot is a slippery slope to impropriety, whether it be advanced technology applications potentially interfering with election results or simply that it could erode the public trust in their right to freely cast a ballot without fear of repercussions.

We urge the committee to reject LD 313. Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.