

# MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



50 Industrial Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
(207) 622-0217

Fax: (207) 622-1513  
Email: [mpa@mpa.cc](mailto:mpa@mpa.cc)

Websites:  
<https://mpaprof.org>  
<https://mpa.cc>

**Kimberly Liscomb**  
Cony Middle/High  
School  
President

**Stephen Bell**  
Dexter Regional High  
School  
President-elect

**Michael R. Burnham**  
Executive Director  
Interscholastic Division

**Holly D. Blair**  
Executive Director  
Professional Division

**Michael G. Bisson**  
Assistant Director

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Opportunity Organization*

**TO:** Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
**FROM:** Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee  
**RE:** In Opposition of LD 734: An Act to Promote Voter Registration for Students in Maine's High Schools  
**DATE:** March 11, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 700 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors, and Athletic Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is in opposition to LD 734, "An Act to Promote Voter Registration for Students in Maine's High Schools." While I fully support civic engagement and voter participation, I believe this bill imposes an unnecessary mandate on schools, disregarding Maine's tradition of local control in education.

Currently, all Maine high schools already have access to voter registration materials, and students who wish to register can do so with ease. The existing system provides ample opportunity for students to take initiative in becoming registered voters without requiring schools to divert valuable time and resources toward a state-mandated program.

Maine prides itself on being a local control state, where school districts determine the best approach to civic education and engagement based on their unique community needs. By mandating voter registration activities, LD 734 overrides this principle and imposes a one-size-fits-all requirement on schools, many of which are already managing significant educational responsibilities.

Additionally, civic education should focus on equipping students with the knowledge and skills to engage in the democratic process independently, rather than imposing an administrative requirement on schools. Encouraging voluntary initiatives rather than state mandates is a more effective and locally responsive approach to fostering lifelong civic participation.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to oppose LD 734 and allow Maine's high schools to continue providing voter registration opportunities at their discretion, rather than through a state-imposed mandate.