



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: March 20, 2025

To: Senator Joe Baldacci, Senate Chair
Representative Suzanne Salisbury, House Chair
And members of the State and Local Government Committee

From: Patti Dubois, Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association

Re: LD 1013 – An Act to Protect Taxpayers y Requiring Referenda on Significant
Municipal Debt

Position: Neither For Nor Against

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is neither for nor against LD 1013 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your committee.

Members noted that municipalities that have adopted a municipal charter may not be affected by passage of this bill; however, some communities would be required to administer a referenda election on large projects either within their community or being undertaken as a district. This would add some minimal additional costs if administered as part of another election but could be costly if the referenda election could not be run concurrently with another state or municipal election. Members pointed out that this would likely be considered a mandate.

Members noted that the language in the bill calls for the referenda election to be called on the "first Tuesday in November", which does not coincide with language for state elections which designates "the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November" as the date on which the election is held. In years in which November 1st falls on a Tuesday, the current language would require holding the referenda election on November 1st, and the state election on November 8th.

Although it doesn't impact clerks, the mandated timing of the election could delay projects to the next year.

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 (207)680-4210 or by email: pdubois@waterville-me.gov .