

5/12/2025

Oppose LD 1556: Resolve, Regarding Increasing the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners

Oppose LD 1884: Resolve, to Increase the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the State and Local Government Committee;

Thank you for reading my testimony and allowing me to share my views with the Committee. My name is Amy Davidoff from Vassalboro, and a constituent of the sponsor/co-sponsor of these bills, Representative Collins. I am submitting testimony today to express my opposition of putting forth these resolutions that would increase the number of Kennebec County (KC) Commissioners from 3 to 5.

It would appear that these bills would put the cart before the horse, by asking the voters in KC to approve an increase in the number of County Commissioners before determining whether it is needed. I am assuming, but do not know for sure, that this request is based on significant changes in KC demographics and resident populations based on the 2020 census, such that there is undue burden on the existing 3 commissioners.

Redistricting at the county level will increase cost to the taxpayers of KC (without State support as indicated in the 'no fiscal' impact statement in both bills). According to our Budget Committee, Vassalboro's county taxes nearly doubled from FY21 to this FY (i.e., from \$363k to \$631k). Adding 2 more KC Commissioners will add to that burden, as will the cost of the redistricting. To my knowledge, neither my Town Select Board nor Budget Committee has been informed as to the rationale for these resolutions, nor has our Budget Committee been asked as to the fiscal impact it would have to increase the number of commissioners. Why not engage the county's municipalities, perhaps through dialogue with their legislators, to determine whether there is need for increasing the number of commissioners, prior to putting forth a bill to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion. Please vote "Ought not to pass" on LD 1554 and LD 1884.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Davidoff
Vassalboro, ME