



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association  
**Neither For Nor Against**

LD 1977 - *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections*  
May 16, 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 neither for nor against LD 1977 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and the LPC guides MMA's advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

Municipal officials appreciate the attempt to eliminate outdated or ambiguous language from the election laws to create a clearer and more consistent legal framework intended to improve administration and public understanding of the electoral process. Specifically, local leaders support the provisions in the bill that streamline terminology and reflect current practices. These changes will aid municipal election officials in executing their duties with greater confidence and clarity, while also reducing confusion for voters.

Although the proposal is considered a housekeeping bill, municipal officials caution the committee to be sure no new administrative responsibilities will be placed on town and city clerks without accompanying resources, training, or infrastructure support. While sometimes these changes may appear minor or modest in scope individually, the cumulative impact on local election offices, particularly in smaller municipalities with limited staffing, should not be underestimated.

The Association appreciates that the Secretary of State's office has engaged in this important statutory clean-up and the effort to improve clarity and modernize the legal framework, but at the same time, also encourage thoughtful consideration to ensure changes are workable on the ground.

Thank you for your time and considering the municipal perspective.

