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## Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Local Government Center • 60 Community Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330-9486  
1-800-452-8786 (In Maine) • 207-623-8428  
Fax 207-626-5947

Date: January 24, 2023

To: Senator Craig Hickman, Senate Chair  
Representative Laura Supica, House Chair  
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

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

Re: LD 34– An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the  
Purpose of Voting

Position: Neither For Nor Against

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is neither for nor against LD 34 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your committee. In fact, surveys of municipal clerks on similar bills resulted in more than half of respondents being in support of this concept, and an equal percentage being either opposed or neither for nor against.

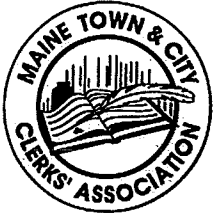
Those in support of requiring ID to vote sited:

- Increased voter confidence
- Decrease in errors when checking voters off the voter list
- Decrease in potential for voter fraud
- Not a major hardship since most already have an ID
- Strengthens the voting process and the accountability of elections

Those in opposition of requiring ID to vote sited:

- The absence of any language in the bill on how absentee voters will be handled may result in voters being treated differently
- Could create confusion among voters, create long lines at polls while workers review various forms of ID, which may require additional staffing at the polls
- Costs and accessibility to obtain special voter photograph identification cards
- Voters have already demonstrated their identity when they registered to vote

Since this bill doesn't identify a process for voters who wish to vote but do not show photo identification, it is assumed that these voters will be turned away to come back with proper ID and may result in disenfranchising a percentage of voters. Voters who are turned away will likely be frustrated or angry and will take that out on election clerks.



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Smaller municipalities noted that there is no allowance for the election clerk's personal knowledge of the individual as allowable proof of identity. In addition, the bill specifically prohibits the use of college IDs, but is silent on other picture IDs such as those used for employment.

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](mailto:pdubois@waterville-me.gov) .