

Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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

Date: February 14, 2023

To: Senator Tim Nangle, Senate Chair
Representative Holly Stover, 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 577 – An Act to Increase Availability of Election Information on Local
Government Websites

Position: Neither For Nor Against

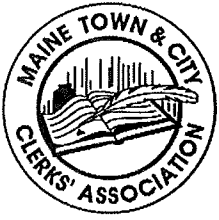
The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is neither for nor against LD 577 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your committee.

Our members acknowledge that municipalities across our state have varied resources afforded to them in keeping website information posted and up to date, which results in their citizens either finding no information, or inaccurate information regarding elections through this medium. Municipal clerks often lack the technical expertise or the staff time to adequately maintain information on their municipal websites. Most clerks would agree that this is an area that could be improved.

While acknowledging the need, it is clear to our membership that adding this to the already overburdened staff at the Secretary of State's office, without providing additional resources, will likely not achieve the desired results. At the very least, additional staffing would be required to develop the template and to roll out this information. Once implemented, staff time would be needed to periodically review, then update the information and relevant links.

Members suggested that consideration be given to amend the language by shifting this responsibility from the Secretary of State to Informe, whose staff are already trained and focused on technology.

Should this bill receive support from the committee, an amendment is suggested to remove the language requiring the Secretary of State to provide links to municipal or county websites, since this one aspect alone can quickly become unmanageable with over 500 municipalities.



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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 .