



**MAINE MUNICIPAL  
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## Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

### In Opposition To

**LD 1013 - *An Act to Protect Taxpayers by Requiring Referenda on Significant Municipal Debt***  
**March 31, 2025**

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Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 1013 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 the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

While requiring a municipality to hold a referendum when planning to spend a significant amount of money seems transparent on its face, municipal officials strongly oppose any legislative proposals that would override home rule authority or measures where the state would dictate how a municipality would conduct their business. This is particularly the case in the process of securing revenues, particularly when meeting Maine Bond Bank deadlines as well as in response to favorable borrowing rates, as timing is of the essence. Municipalities need to be able to conduct business when deemed appropriate and necessary, rather than waiting for the November election.

It is also worth noting that if this bill aims to align this process with state elections, the language should be changed from the referendum being held on the first Tuesday, to read the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.



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