



Timothy Nangle
Senator, District 26

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Tim Nangle introducing
**LD 1013, “An Act to Protect Taxpayers by Requiring Referenda on Significant
Municipal Debt”**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
March 31, 2025*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, I am Senator Tim Nangle. I represent Senate District 26, which includes the communities of Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook. I am pleased to present LD 1013, “An Act to Protect Taxpayers by Requiring Referenda on Significant Municipal Debt.”

As a former Windham Town Councilor, I have experience with the intricacies of municipal budgeting and the responsibilities that come with managing public funds. As we are all aware, in recent years, Maine has seen property tax increases in both rural towns and urban centers, often leaving residents feeling disconnected from the decisions that impact their financial well-being. Many citizens don’t have the time to attend town meetings, participate in budget committees, or run for public office. And yet they see their property taxes increasing without fully understanding the reasons behind these changes.

This bill, LD 1013, offers a straightforward solution to increase public involvement in significant municipal financial decisions. The bill would require a referendum for any bond issuance of \$10 million or more, ensuring that taxpayers have a direct say in decisions that could significantly impact their property taxes in the future. The referendum would take place on the first Tuesday in November, coinciding with the general elections, which would ensure it is well-attended and visible. This not only enhances transparency but also fosters a more informed and engaged electorate.

When voters are actively involved in the decision-making process, they gain a better understanding of where their money is being spent. This bill represents a small but significant step toward ensuring that large financial commitments are made with broad public input, thereby preventing potential runaway increases and fostering trust within our communities.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Tim Nangle
State Senator, Senate District 26
Representing Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham, and part of Westbrook