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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

LD 2049 – An Act to Eliminate the Requirement for Municipalities to Provide Public Notice in a Newspaper

January 21, 2026

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am testifying in support of LD 2049 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine. The LPC guides the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

While transparency and public notice are essential to local government, the LPC believes the time has come to modernize practices that reflect how residents access information. The newspaper notice requirement places an unnecessary financial burden on local governments at a time when the stress on local budgets is mounting. Currently, there are more effective, accessible, and timely tools available today, such as municipal websites, electronic postings, and direct digital notifications, which are already in widespread use. Continuing to require newspaper advertising prioritizes a single private medium over more cost-effective communication methods.

Eliminating the requirement would not prohibit a community from advertising in the newspaper but rather provide communities with an option. The passage of LD 2049 recognizes that some smaller communities don't have access to a local newspaper and rely on larger more expensive options, like the Bangor Daily News or Portland Press Herald, to serve as their local newspaper.

This change is a positive step that respects local decision making, saves taxpayer money at a time when every dollar matters, and modernizes public notice laws while still preserving the core goal of an open and accessible government.

Thank you for your time and for considering the LPC's perspective on this issue.