



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: February 8, 2019

To: Senator Louis J. Luchini, Senate Chair
Representative John C. Schneck, House Chair
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

From: Kathy Montejo, Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association
City Clerk, City of Lewiston

Re: LD 218 – An Act to Prohibit a Person from Collecting Contributions under
the Maine Clean Election Act at a Polling Place

Position: Support

The Maine Town and City Clerks' Association is in Support of LD 218 and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our comments for your Committee:

Very simply stated, the polling place needs to be a neutral free zone, free from politics and campaigning. Voters need to feel they can walk into the polls and not have any influence whatsoever. We feel it is the responsibility of municipal clerks to protect the polling place and ensure voters have a campaign and political free zone.

The solicitation and collection of campaign contributions within the polling place area should not be allowed. It is difficult for campaign workers to ask for donations without using influential language in support of their candidate and discussing the merits of their campaign. The ability for a campaign to set up a table inside the building where voting is occurring leads to the impression and perception that voter influence is taking place. We need to avoid the projection of this image. Campaigns have the ability to recruit donations in numerous of ways; setting up at the polls should be off-limits.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments today with the Committee. 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 513-3124 or by email: kmontejo@lewistonmaine.gov