



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: March 10, 2021

To: Senator Joseph Baldacci, Senate Chair
Representative Ann Matlack, House Chair
And members of the State and Local Government Committee

From: Katherine Jones, Co- Chairperson, Legislative Policy
Committee of the Maine Town and City Clerks' Association

Re: LD 876 – An Act to Promote Efficiency in County and Municipal Government

Position: Neither For Nor Against

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is Neither For Nor Against LD 876 for several reasons and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your Committee.

Many members liked the flexibility that the option of posting notices on a website or social media platform would provide to clerks. In fact, some said that this could be a safeguard for public notice requirements when notices aren't published in a timely manner or have errors or omissions. This also affords a contingency if a local newspaper discontinues paper publications.

On the other hand, clerks noted that many remote areas within our state do not have reliable access to the internet. In addition, many older citizens do not utilize technology and still rely on printed media for their notice of local issues.

Since this option would be optional, members supported the flexibility that would be provided for towns to determine what works best for their citizens.

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 874-8614 or by email: klj@portlandmaine.gov.

Representing Over 400