



Melanie Sachs

84 Kelsey Ridge Road

Freeport, ME 04032

Residence: 207-299-6825

Melanie.Sachs@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

April 12, 2021

Testimony of Representative Melanie Sachs, co-sponsor of LD 805, “An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places”, before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Melanie Sachs, and I am honored to represent House District 48, which includes Freeport and part of Pownal. While I am unable to be present this testimony in person, I am compelled as a co-sponsor and strong supporter of LD 805 to submit this testimony in writing for your consideration.

I have been in public service for only a decade, as a Town Councilor and now as a State Representative. It is one of the highlights of my service to be at the polls on election days, in June and November, with the occasional special election in March. I have greeted thousands of voters, and find being at the polls is wonderful opportunity to connect, to buy a baked good to support a local nonprofit or children’s organization, to obtain information on local issues, and to catch up with one another.

This past election season was remarkably different. I have never had voters express concern for their safety when voting, until this cycle. Guns are already prohibited at our Election Day polling place, as it is located at a school, but that did not keep residents from voicing concerns. I saw those same concerns amplified by Mainers across our state. For the first time in my memory, a member of the Freeport Police Department sat in readiness monitoring the election site for the entire day.

LD 805 is common-sense legislation that ensures that the residents of Maine can exercise their Constitutional right to vote in safe and welcoming environment. This bill allows municipalities to have the ability to institute such a policy if they wish to do so for their community. I urge the Committee to unanimous recommend “Ought to Pass” for LD 805.