

Joyce Simpson
Whiting

Re: LD 805 An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places
To: The members of the State and Local Government

I urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on this piece of legislation. It is interesting to learn that the reason for the passage of this bill began as a means of reminding citizens not to bring firearms on to school property when voting. It then expanded to all municipal buildings. Like far too many pieces of legislation the creeping expansion of bills whittles away at the rights of citizens. If reminders are needed, post a sign. Criminals aren't going to pay attention to either the law or a sign. Honest citizens will by force and leave themselves and others open to death by lawbreakers.

The 250 foot rule for campaign advertising is hardly in the same category as a right to be able to defend oneself and others from those intent on committing deadly harm against others. If, perchance, a lawbreaker is going to commit a crime, 250 feet won't stop them. Bullets travel farther than 250 feet.

The fear factor. One fears what one does not understand. Fear should not be the motivator for a handicap law. It isn't the gun or law-abiding citizen that are to be feared, but those who break the law. Many elderly people carry guns because they do not fear them. Children should be taught not to fear the weapon, but learn to know who will be a danger to themselves and to others whether they are at a playground, a store, a school, or a municipal building.

We shouldn't think that we are safe because we are in a gun-free zone. Attackers strike anyplace where they feel there is less threat to themselves to do so. Rather than looking for more places to remove weapons of defense we should be pushing back and opening up more places where we do not make ourselves vulnerable.

Patchwork laws should not be encouraged as you set up innocent and law-abiding citizens to break laws. So the next legislative session comes around and the creeping expansion of no gun zones expands to all municipal and voting places. And since voting days are expanded, so let's expand no gun days as well. This is wrong. Maine has given the rights of its citizens to bear arms as allowed by the Constitution 365 days of the year. And so it should remain as it has helped keep violent crime numbers down. Chicago, which has extreme gun control has one of the highest crime rates.

If municipalities are concerned about protecting its citizens on voting days, and they don't want to hire law enforcement for protection, don't take away the rights of law-abiding citizens so lawbreakers will be encouraged to do harm. Please vote "Ought Not to Pass".

Thank you.