

Janice Vance  
Kennebunk

Dear Senator Breen and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Janice Vance and I live in Kennebunk. I would like to request that you pass LD 805, An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Firearms at Voting Places.

Last year, due to the pandemic, my family voted via absentee ballot. But, that is the first time since 1976, when I first became eligible to vote, that I didn't vote in person. I live in a town where we have a wonderful Town Clerk and staff who do a fantastic job ensuring that all residents can cast votes easily and safely at our Town Hall. We have a crew of wonderful poll workers who give of themselves to make sure voters know what to do once they've arrived at the polling place. They deserve respect and appreciation. Every citizen is entitled to vote, without interference and without intimidation – it is our democratic right. I can't quite imagine why our Town staff, poll workers and voters would welcome someone showing up displaying weapons. The display of weapons at a polling place is an intentional act of intimidation for poll workers and voters, and a demonstration of disrespect for the process and the candidates.

Thank you for allowing me to comment, and please vote for LD 805.