

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LD 2042

Jan. 21, 2026

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the committee. I am Dan MacLeod, president of Maine Press Association and executive editor of Bangor Daily News.

I am submitting testimony urging you to vote against [LD 2042](#), which would drop the requirement that Maine municipalities publish public notices through independent media. This bill threatens a process that works well and could have wide-ranging implications for Mainers all over the state.

Public notices have been protecting towns and taxpayers for hundreds of years. They've been a quiet safeguard, competently providing independent oversight and transparency into public spending.

These notices include requests for proposals by towns throughout Maine to solicit bids on crucial work that taxpayers fund — such as repairing roads, or bridges or schools. They've been published through independent media (for literally centuries) to protect the public by limiting opportunities for cronyism and corruption.

Independent, third-party publication ensures any given town can't manipulate the RFP process to direct local tax revenue towards favored contractors. By making all RFPs public, every contractor has an equal opportunity to bid on a town's work. Maine has a long and valued history of laws protecting transparency in governance. The current public notice system provides an additional safeguard.

The law helps taxpayers in other ways. For example, the current requirement (by encouraging a one-stop publishing outlet for all the public notices) encourages competition. Contractors from across the state can find most RFPs in one place rather than having to search across numerous municipal websites in a timely fashion to find the jobs for bidding. Two of the largest web referrals to [mainenotices.com](#) are the Dodge Construction Network and [ConstructConnect.com](#), which are clearinghouses designed to alert contractors

about job opportunities. The current structure of public notices in Maine effectively centralizes information, which generates more competitive bidding, giving towns more choices and saving taxpayer money.

The current system also benefits municipalities by making posting easy. Shifting the labor involved in posting public notices to the municipalities will add to the responsibilities and requirements for towns across Maine, many of which are already overburdened. It also threatens to raise internet hosting costs for towns, whereas Mainenotices.com covers the distribution, hosting and archiving involved.

Ultimately, the bidding process for public works requires a modicum of trust. By making sure that public notices are published through independent media, the process builds in a layer of protection for Maine's taxpayers. We have recently seen how budget crises in [Washington](#) and [Penobscot](#) counties have placed new burdens on local municipalities. Right now it seems that we should be maintaining, rather than possibly killing, transparency in government contracting. With [controversies](#) throughout Maine about transparency in how towns spend taxpayer funds, now is not the time to make the process more opaque.

The public notices system isn't broken. It works well, and shouldn't be added to municipal responsibilities. The proposed law is a solution in search of a problem.

I strongly urge this committee to vote against this bill.

Thank you,

Dan MacLeod