



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: March 2, 2021

To: Senator Louis J. Luchini, Senate Chair
Representative Chris Caiazzo, House Chair
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

From: Patti Dubois, Chairperson, Legislative Policy Committee
Maine Town and City Clerks' Association

Re: LD 580 – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine
Regarding Early Voting

Position: Neither For Nor Against

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is Neither For Nor Against LD 580 for several reasons and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your Committee.

Members of the Maine Town & City Clerk's Association's Legislative Policy support the concept of sending this question out to the voters so that this could be considered for future election offerings to voters.

It appears that towns would have the ability to opt-in to the process of early voting. One on hand, this opt-in choice is good for smaller communities you have very limited staff and might be unable to offer this service without hiring on extra staff, but this opt-in scenario can be bad because it creates confusion among voters when there are inconsistencies between neighboring towns.

Should this bill pass, and voters ultimately approve this at referendum, the Maine Town and City Clerks' Association would be willing and able to work with the Secretary of State's office to develop procedures to administer this service.

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 680-4210 or by email: pdubois@waterville-me.gov.