

Town of Scarborough, Maine

259 US ROUTE ONE
PO BOX 360
SCARBOROUGH, MAINE • 04070-0360

February 3, 2021

Dear Senator Libby of Androscoggin
Representative Brooks of Lewiston
Representative McCreight of Harpswell
Representative Rielly of Westbrook.

RE: LD208 An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots

I am writing to express my concerns on LD 208 - **An Act To Expand Access to Absentee Ballots**. I have been a Municipal Clerk for over 26 years and have seen many changes with the Election process. The current laws in place in Title 21A §753-B.2.D. has been a tremendous asset for Municipal Clerks during the Election process. To remove this section of the law would place additional hardship on Municipal Clerks/Election Officials.

Before the 2011 without Title 21A.B.2.D:

In the November 2008 General Election there were over 11,820 voters who cast ballots. Of that number, 4,495 were absentee ballots. The day before this election the Clerk's Office processed 693 absentee ballots. Needless to say, staff was up late into the night auditing our work for that day and then updated the Incoming Voting List [list to check in voters on Election Day] to reflect these voters had voted. This is in addition to other work that is conducted by the Municipal Clerk's Office.

After the 2011 with Title 21A.B.2.D :

Fast forward to the November of 2012 General Election there were over 11,560 voters who cast ballots. Of that number 4,495 were absentee ballots. The day before this election the Clerk's Office processed 211 absentee ballots. We were able to audit our days work and update the Incoming Voting List in a timely manner and staff was able to go home at a reasonable hour. This is in addition to other work that is conducted by the Municipal Clerk's Office.

As you can see by the two examples above, the laws currently in place helped tremendously in preparing for Election Day. With all of the advertising around absentee voting in the last two elections, I believe we will see voters preferring the absentee voting process, even after the pandemic is behind us. With these additional days [Friday and Monday prior] by requiring voters to have a special exception would assist staff in the preparation of upcoming Elections.

If you remove subsection §753-B.2.D. as noted above it would put undue hardship on Election Officials across the State and further increase municipal budgets with this unfunded mandate, when municipal budgets are stretched enough already.

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I do not support LD 208 and ask the Committee to vote not to pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance on this request.

Sincerely,



Yolande P. Justice

Town Clerk

207-730-4020 or yjustice@scarboroughmaine.org