

TOWN OF SEDGWICK  
PO Box 40  
Sedgwick, Maine 04676

March 3, 2021

Veterans Committee  
Legal Affairs Committee  
130<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature

Ladies and Gentlemen:

LD 208-An Act to Expand Absentee Voting is an unnecessary and cumbersome addition to the burden on city and town clerks in the State of Maine.

Absentee ballots are available 30 days before every election---plenty of time for any one to request a ballot. I speak as someone who has been voting since 1972, and in those first years, I voted absentee most of the time, without any problems.

'Special circumstances' request forms are available for anyone who discovers immediately before an election that getting to the polls is impossible.

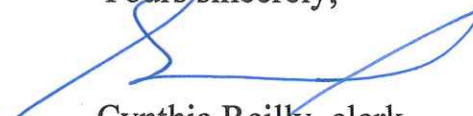
I have been clerk in Sedgwick since 1995. I have NEVER refused any Sedgwick voter a ballot. I have personally carried a ballot out to an elderly woman on election day who could not make it inside to vote. No one is denied the right to vote. I can't, of course, speak for the clerks in big cities, but I believe the clerks in all small Maine towns go out of their way so that every voter can vote.

Please don't make it harder for us, or increase our burden. We have voter lists to print, records to keep and polling places to set up—all within those last few days before an election. Asking people to simply request their ballots by a certain date, and to have 3<sup>rd</sup> party runners pick up the ballots back within 2 days (which makes very GOOD sense, in preventing any tampering or fraud), and to vote absentee before election day does not in any way keep people from voting. The 'special circumstances' application already takes care of last minute issues for voters.

If this bill passes, the increased burden on clerks, in some towns where clerks are not appointed and paid by the hour, will end up also being an increased burden on taxpayers.

With thanks for your consideration,

Yours sincerely,



Cynthia Reilly, clerk