

Town of Brunswick, Maine

INCORPORATED 1739

Town Clerk's Department

85 Union Street
Brunswick, Maine 04011

207-725-6658
207-725-6663 FAX



Date: March 5, 2021

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

From: Fran Smith, Town Clerk, Brunswick Maine

Re: LD 208 – An Act to Expand Access to Absentee Ballots

Position: Oppose

We do not support LD 208, and below are a few reasons why:

- We strive on providing accurate elections and by having the extra days to appropriately process the absentee received (which better serves our community.)
- We need the extra days to prepare for the polls (setting booths, supplies, printing voter lists.)
- Very few people come in during the few days before the election.
- On election day, our clerk's office is minimally staffed.

In addition, issuing absentees and running an election is a complex process that requires extensive knowledge of election laws. With minimum people with these experiences serving a community of 21,000 residents, we need to focus on implementing the best election possible. Allowing three days prior to the election day that absentees are not issued gives staff time to manage the various requirements of opening absentees and setting up/running our voting location.

We are happy to talk directly to any member of your committee about our processes in Brunswick. Our number is 725-5598 or email, smithfm@brunswickme.org.

Sincerely,

Fran Smith
Brunswick Town Clerk