



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

Local Government Center • 60 Community Drive
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Date: March 2, 2020

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
City Clerk, City of Waterville

Re: LD 557 – An Act To Require Photographic Identification for the
Purpose of Voting

Position: NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is Neither For Nor Against LD 557 for several reasons and we thank you for the opportunity to outline our points for your Committee.

Members of the Maine Town & City Clerks' Association's Legislative Policy Committee were not opposed to the idea of requiring voters to show ID at the polls, and many were in favor of the concept. The implementation of requiring IDs at the polls could increase voter confidence in the process, decrease errors at check-in, result in less chance for voter fraud, would not be a hardship to voters since most already have ID, and could strengthen the voting process.

Some concerns that were raised:

- There are no procedures outlined regarding voters who do not have any of the specified identification documents to provide at the polls. Past legislative proposals have outlined a cumbersome provisional ballot procedure that created significant procedural challenges.
- Since absentee voters are not required to show identification in order to obtain their ballots, in-person voters would be held to a different standard by having to provide identification in order to obtain their ballots.
- This ID review could potentially slow down the voting process and may require towns to bear the costs of hiring more staff on election day.

Representing Over 400



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- This requirement could create a barrier for some voters who are unable to meet this requirement.
- This bill states that college or school IDs issued in this state would not be considered acceptable forms of identification, which implies that the same documents that are issued outside of Maine would be acceptable.
- Members also questioned whether the identification documents would be used to verify a voter's address and what the process would be when that ID address does not match the voter registration address.
- Current state law allows a citizen to provide a utility bill to register to vote if they are unable to provide other identifying documents. This law would create a higher threshold to allow a registered voter to vote than is in place to register to vote.

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 Waterville City Clerk Patti Dubois who is currently serving as the Maine Town & City Clerks' Legislative Policy Committee Chairperson at 207-380-4210 or by email at pdubois@waterville-me.gov .