



**Testimony in Support of LD 253:** [“An Act To Strengthen Maine's Election Laws by Requiring Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting,”](#) **LD 557:** [“An Act To Require Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting,”](#) and **LD 1083:** [“An Act To Create a Voter Identification System”](#)

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Nick Murray and I serve as policy analyst for Maine Policy Institute, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that advocates for individual liberty and economic freedom in Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on LD 253, 557, and 1083.

Requiring identification with a photo in order to verify one’s identity for the ballot is a common-sense measure. While these bills are very similar, we believe LD 1083 is the best path to take this session.

LD 1083 stands out because it provides for anyone to obtain a free, state-issued photo ID card for the purposes of voting, if they do not have one. If all else fails, Maine voters may still cast a provisional ballot, after signing an affidavit legally attesting to their identity.

Since 2008, the state of Georgia has provided voters who need one a free ID card in order to vote. Present controversy aside, this has been in law in Georgia for over a decade. It allows voters to use any of the following forms of photo identification:

- a Georgia driver’s license (valid or expired)
- a valid state or federal government-issued photo ID (including a free voter ID card)
- a valid US passport
- a valid photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of federal, state, county or municipal government
- a valid U.S. military photo ID
- a valid tribal photo ID

LD 1083 includes concealed carry handgun permits with a photo in the list of approved voter identification as well. Any form of government-issued ID should be allowed to be used by voters to verify their identity at the polls. The tricky situation is with college or university identification, because, like a private workplace badge, it does not verify residency, and cannot be used for voting.

Questions may arise as to how this would affect Maine’s absentee voting process. In Georgia, if voters cannot provide their state ID number on their absentee ballot application, they must include a photocopy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or other document that shows name and address.<sup>1</sup> Ballots submitted without a photo ID are treated as provisional ballots. We recommend this committee pursue an amendment to codify a similar process to secure photo ID verification for absentee voters as well.<sup>2</sup>

Especially when anyone can obtain a free photographic voter ID, as LD 1083 provides, there is little reason to suggest that it would harm any voter who wishes to cast a proper ballot. Please deem one or all of these bills “Ought to Pass” and advance this basic safeguard to election integrity. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> [Georgia Voter ID Guide](#) | VoteRiders

<sup>2</sup> [O.C.G.A. 21-2-386](#)

Nick Murray  
Maine Policy Institute

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