



Maine Town & City Clerks' Association

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Date: April 20, 2021

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 1496 – An Act to Establish the Board of Canvassers for Certifying Election Results

Position: Neither For Nor Against

The Maine Town and City Clerks' Association are Neither For Nor Against LD 1496 and we thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts.

Since the establishment of such a board would impact the Secretary of State's office more than municipal clerks, our membership didn't feel strongly either way, but noted the following:

- This bill establishes membership to be based solely on affiliation with one of the major political parties. Clerks felt that unenrolled members should also be allowed to be members.
- Clerks noted that the timing detailed in the bill of reviewing results 10 days after Election Day would be difficult to meet, since returns are still coming into the Secretary of State's office and recounts are still being conducted at that time.
- Our members felt that the reason for this board to request a recount was not stated and pointed out that inaccurate results from municipalities are already discovered by the Secretary of State's office. It appears that this board could arbitrarily request a recount if the results are felt to be "inaccurate" but fails to state what measure would be used to uncover the inaccuracy.

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 me at 680-4210 or by email: pdubois@waterville-me.gov.

Representing Over 400