



## **Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association**

### **Neither For Nor Against**

#### ***LD 309 - An Act to Allow a Political Party to Determine How That Party's Nominee Is Selected in a Primary Election***

**February 10, 2025**

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Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony neither for nor against LD 309 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, the LPC guides MMA's advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

Our LPC participated in an email poll as well as a Zoom meeting, if they were able, to discuss the merits of the proposal bill. Their position was determined by a majority vote of all LPC members who responded to the poll or were present at the meeting. MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and support safe, secure elections free from interference, intimidation, and with any luck, confusion.

Municipal officials have shared that their main concern with LD 309 is the chaos and confusion that could occur among voters if there are different voting methods used. Allowing each party to decide which method to use will create inconsistency and undermine other legislation being introduced to create consistency throughout the electoral process. Additionally, if other legislation introduced this session that aims to repeal ranked choice voting passes, this bill will be unnecessary.

Another concern with the passage of LD 309 could potentially undermine the fairness of the election process by favoring candidates from a particular party and could also erode public trust in the fairness of elections if this change is seen as benefiting party insiders.

Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.

