

Richard Coshow
Bridgton
LD 718

I strongly support LD 718 “An Act to Require Municipal Clerks to Issue Absentee Ballots Only to Residents of That Municipality and to Eliminate Ongoing Absentee Voter Status.”

This bill requires a municipal clerk to issue an absentee ballot only to a person who is registered to vote in that municipality, including the voter and an immediate family member or a 3rd person designated by the voter to deliver the ballot on the voter's behalf. It also repeals the provisions allowing for application for ongoing absentee voter status.

This is common sense legislation. I would assume people who weren't supposed to receive a ballot, did. Why wouldn't we want this sort of ballot restriction? Additionally, current practice allows for those age 65 or older or, who self-identifies as having a disability, can complete an application for an “ongoing absentee ballot status” to have a ballot sent to them forever. This makes zero sense. Voter status can change. People move, people die, people change parties. Who gets that ongoing supplied ballot if the voter moves or dies?

Election/voter integrity has been suspect in past elections. Why would any government/municipality be afraid of transparency? This bill, once enacted into law, would help to restore registered voters' faith in our election integrity.

Again, I support LD 718 “An Act to Require Municipal Clerks to Issue Absentee Ballots Only to Residents of That Municipality and to Eliminate Ongoing Absentee Voter Status”, and it ought to pass.