



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association
In Opposition To

LD 38 - An Act Requiring Photographic Identification for Voting, LD 397 - An Act to Require a Voter to Show Photographic Identification, and LD 1149, An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting
May 2, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 38, LD 397, LD 1149 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and the LPC guides MMA's advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

While the intent behind such measures may be to safeguard the electoral process, the practical implications reveal that such requirements often do more harm than good. Requiring photo ID to vote will disproportionately affect low-income individuals, seniors, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. Among these groups, many may not have the necessary identification due to financial constraints, mobility issues, or other barriers to obtaining government-issued IDs. For example, older adults who no longer drive may not maintain a current driver's license, and individuals with disabilities may face challenges in accessing the documentation required to obtain an ID.

While municipal leaders understand that both bills direct the Secretary of State to provide free identification cards. However, there are logistics associated with educating the public about the new requirement, as well as ensuring voters have the means to access and acquire the cards. If not, this could very well lead to disenfranchising many long term voters.

If either of these bills were to pass it would increase the administrative burdens on local government staff and election volunteers. Election officials would need to allocate additional resources to verify IDs, manage exceptions, and educate voters about the new requirements.

Furthermore, the necessity for provisional ballots when voters cannot present acceptable ID adds complexity to the election process and could lead to longer wait times and confusion for voters. Provisional ballots require additional steps that will delay the certification of election results and potentially lead to increased costs and administrative challenges.

It's worth noting that the justification for these bills, that seems to reappear each legislative session, often centering on concerns about voter fraud. However, studies have consistently shown that instances of such fraud are exceedingly rare. Given this lack of evidence, MMA's LPC feels that requiring a photo id to cast a ballot is unnecessary.

Thank you for your time and considering the municipal perspective.

