



Mainers For Modern Elections Endorsed Bills

These bills will help ensure that our Constitutional right to vote is safe and secure, and will modernize our elections systems to provide reliable, equitable access to the ballot for every eligible Maine voter.

[LD 1126](#) An Act To Update the Voter Registration Process

Sponsor: Representative Teresa Pierce

What it Does: This bill requires the Department of the Secretary of State to create a process for accepting online voter registration (OVR) applications through the Secretary of State's publicly accessible website beginning January 1, 2023.

Why we support it:

- OVR saves money by allowing the state to forgo the cost of printing, scanning, and processing of hundreds of thousands of voter registration forms each year.
- OVR supports clean voter rolls, since voter registration records are automatically tied to drivers' license/state ID records or SSN, making the verification process convenient, fast and secure.
- OVR is a tested public policy. Forty states have OVR, some with decades-long track records of successful implementation and demonstrated results.

[LD 1575](#) An Act To Improve Maine's Election Laws

Sponsor: Representative Jay McCreight

What it Does: LD 1575 makes several key improvements to Maine's election laws, building on the experiences of the 2020 elections. LD 1575 addresses deficiencies around consistent acceptance of student ID for proof of identity for registration, and helps standardize information that was not uniformly shared in 2020.

Why we support it:

- The bill clarifies the law around the acceptance of in-state student IDs for voter registration. The bill ensures that more consistent, useful information is provided to voters prior to elections, such as drop box locations and in-person absentee voting hours. The bill also standardizes information around special circumstance absentee voting.

[LD 1363](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Elections

Sponsor: Senator Louie Luchini (presenting for Secretary of State Shenna Bellows)

What it does: Allows towns to use multiple secure ballot dropboxes to cast their ballot. LD 1363 establishes standards to ensure dropboxes are secure and that municipalities are permitted to deploy multiple dropboxes. LD 1363 ensures voters can fix common errors on absentee ballots by creating a "signature cure" provision whereby voters are notified of any error in their absentee ballot that would lead to its rejection. This enshrines the practice implemented in The bill also enshrines the 2020 practice of online voter absentee ballot tracking.

Why we support it:

- LD 1363, the Secretary of State's agency bill, enshrines in laws several changes to Maine elections which were successfully implemented for Maine's 2020 election cycles. These measures will help ensure Mainers can continue to take full advantage of all of the ways to vote in

Maine.

LD 148 An Act To Establish Ongoing Absentee Voting

Sponsor: Speaker of the House Ryan Fecteau

What it does: This bill provides a process for disabled voters and voters over the age of 65 to request ongoing absentee voter status. These “opted in” voters would then automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide, municipal and any other election until the status is terminated. It also calls for Maine to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a non-profit organization that assists states with clean, accurate, up to date voter rolls.

Why we support it:

- Ongoing absentee voting makes it easier for elderly and disabled voters to participate in elections. V ERIC membership leads to safer and more secure elections through efficient and effective data matching. Cleaner voter rolls will result in such efficiencies as less mail returned to sender, fewer provisional ballots received on election day, shorter lines at polling places. In addition, ERIC uses and shares resources such as the Social Security death index and data from the US Post Office that states now buy on their own.