

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

Department of the Secretary of State

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions

Julie L. Flynn
Deputy Secretary of State

January 12, 2026

The Honorable Craig Hickman, Senate Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

The Honorable Laura Supica, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and Members of the Committee,

Pursuant to Maine election law, Title 21-A section 675, requiring the Secretary of State to report annually “the number and type of reports of threats to or harassment of public officials received by the Secretary of State during the previous calendar year,” we are pleased to provide the following 2025 report.

We received no reports by municipal public officials of threats or harassment while conducting state or municipal elections in the State last year. As in previous years, we received some feedback from some clerks that the questions around the confidentiality of threat reports submitted to the Secretary of State may limit written submissions of reports to our office. Clerks are not comfortable submitting threat information to the Office of Secretary of State, knowing that the details may be publicly divulged, potentially putting them at further risk of public harassment.

There was some online activity directed at me leading to a law enforcement presence at a couple of my public events and one text message naming my parents specifically. There were no incidents of violence.

In October of 2025, the Division of Election Audits and Training partnered with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles’ Enforcement Division to host a physical security, de-escalation, and threat reporting training. Around 30 municipal clerks and election workers attended, and we received positive feedback on the scope and manner of the training. Additionally, election security was a component of our annual training for municipal clerks and registrars offered in September of 2025 in Augusta and Presque Isle.

It should be noted that funding for election security including threat reporting through the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center was zeroed out by the federal government on February 14, 2025. Federal resources through the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) were not available to support our election security trainings this year. It was the first year in recent memory that the federal government did not facilitate national table top the vote exercises for election officials or fund a nationwide Election Day situation room to coordinate election security activities. We are hopeful that this federal support may resume in future years.

I look forward to working with you to ensure the safety and security of our municipal clerks and public officials. Please feel free to contact me at 626-8400 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State