

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

February 1, 1980

Honorable Lucien A. Dutremble
House of Representatives
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Representative Dutremble:

This is in response to your inquiry as to whether a municipal police officer may engage in political activity. Apart from the fact that it is related to the selection of a candidate for President, we are unaware of the specific nature of the activities in question. Accordingly, our response must be rather general.

The short answer to your question is that Maine's statutes do not regulate participation in political affairs by municipal law enforcement officers. Thus, unless the conduct violated a statute applicable to all citizens, there would generally not be a problem under State law.

We should emphasize that our answer is by necessity limited to State law. There may well be provisions in the charter or ordinances of the municipality or in the regulations of the police department which address the situation. Accordingly, the laws and regulations of the given municipality should be carefully examined before any final conclusion is reached as to the scope of permissible political activity by a law enforcement officer employed by that municipality.

I hope this information is helpful. Please feel free to call on us if we can be of any further service.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Diamond
STEPHEN L. DIAMOND
Deputy Attorney General

SLD/ec