

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

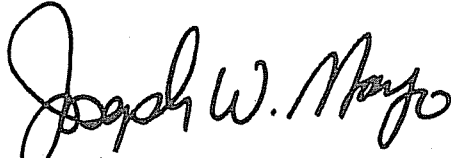
No. 1506

H.P. 1110

House of Representatives, May 13, 1993

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Municipal Elections.

Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SIMONDS of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Representative: CROSS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senator: HANDY of Androscoggin.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
4 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §2528, sub-§4, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

6 C. Completed nomination papers or certificates of political
8 caucus nomination must be filed with the clerk during
10 business hours by the 35th 45th day prior to election day.
They must be accompanied by the written consent of the
person proposed as a candidate agreeing:

12 (1) To accept the nomination if nominated;

14 (2) Not to withdraw; and

16 (3) If elected at the municipal election, to qualify
18 as such municipal officer.

20 When these papers and certificates are filed, the clerk
shall make ~~these papers and certificates~~ them available to
22 public inspection under proper protective regulations. The
clerk shall keep them in the office for 6 months.

24 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §2528, sub-§6, ¶F**, as amended by PL 1989, c.
104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

26 F. Before distribution, the ballot shall must be folded in
28 marked creases to measure, when folded, from 4 ~~1/2~~ 1/4 to 5
30 inches wide and from 6 to 13 1/2 inches long. On the back
and outside, when folded, shall must be printed "Official
32 Ballot for the Town of," the date of election and a
facsimile of the signature of the clerk.

34 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §2528, sub-§6-A** is enacted to read:

36 6-A. Candidate withdrawal; new ballots. A candidate who
38 wishes to withdraw from an elective race shall notify the
municipal clerk in writing of the candidate's intent to withdraw
and the reason for withdrawal 45 days before the election. This
40 notice must be signed by the candidate.

42 The municipal clerk shall ensure that new ballots are produced,
44 if necessary, to reflect the withdrawal of the candidate.

46 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §2529, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1989, c.
104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

48 2. **Absentee ballot.** The absentee ballot requirements of
50 Title 21-A, section 752, apply, ~~provided that the words "Absentee~~
~~Ballet" are marked conspicuously, instead of printed, on both~~

2 ~~sides of the folded ballot, if at least one such marking includes~~
4 ~~an attestation with the written signature of the clerk and is~~
6 ~~sealed with the municipal seal.~~

8 STATEMENT OF FACT

10 This bill makes the following changes to municipal election
12 law.

14 1. The bill changes the deadline for filing nomination
16 papers for municipal office from 35 to 45 days before an election
18 to allow more time for producing ballots.

20 2. The bill requires a candidate who wishes to withdraw
22 from an election to notify the municipal clerk within 45 days of
24 the election. The clerk must ensure that ballots are prepared to
reflect the candidate's withdrawal.

3. The bill eliminates the requirement that absentee
ballots be marked as such, making local election law identical
with state election law in this regard.

4. The bill allows municipalities to reduce the size of
their ballots so that they can use standard size paper.