

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

March 06, 2023

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,

Maine election law, Title 21-A section 675, requires 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.” This report covers calendar year 2022.

We received two reports by public officials of threats or harassment while conducting state or municipal elections in the State last year. Upon investigation, one of those reports was referred to law enforcement for investigation and then referred to the Office of Attorney General, which declined prosecution. The local election official has now expressed that the law enforcement contact with the voter was sufficient and prosecution unnecessary. A second report, upon consultation with the Office of Attorney General, was determined to fall short of conduct prohibited by 21-A M.R.S. § 674(2)(E).

Additionally, we are pleased to report that we partnered with the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the FBI to provide de-escalation training for all interested municipal clerks. We intend to continue to provide security training to our local election officials on an ongoing basis.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shenna Bellows".

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State