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SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT
OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

February 24, 2026

Via U.S. Mail & E-mail

The Hon. Bryan Steil
Chairman, Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6157

Re: The Make Elections Great Again (MEGA) Act

Dear Chairman Steil,

I write to voice my concerns over the Make Elections Great Again (MEGA) Act (H.R. 7300) that you introduced on January 29, 2026, and to reiterate information on Maine's free, safe and fair elections processes. The Maine Department of the Secretary of State includes the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions (CEC) and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). As the state's chief elections official and chief motor vehicle administrator, I have particular insight into how this federalization of elections proposed within MEGA would harm Maine citizens.

As you well know, Article 1, Section 4 of the Constitution grants the States primary authority over election administration, including the "Manner of holding Elections." If enacted, MEGA would be the most sweeping federalization of election administration in our nation's history, well beyond the SAVE Act. This bill would further mandate rapid and costly changes, despite already ongoing Primary preparations, and without any corresponding federal dollars, imposing significant costs on our state and the municipalities that administer elections in Maine.

We have significant concerns that the MEGA Act would restrict voting rights of a substantial portion of our citizenry because of costly and confusing mandates that would be impossible for a significant portion of our citizens, particularly older Mainers, to meet. For example, MEGA mandates a national voter ID requirement that would essentially close the door on absentee voting by mail in our state to anyone without access to a photocopier. Under MEGA all absentee voters would be required to provide a copy of their ID, or a specific identification number matching a state database and an affidavit that they are not able to provide a copy of their ID. Alone, this need to access a photocopier to return a ballot would prevent many from voting absentee, but the bill would also prevent the delivery of completed

ballots on behalf of others, with criminal penalties, except in compliance with lengthy paperwork requirements.

Mandatory Documentary Proof of Citizenship (DPOC) within this Act would wipe away current, well-functioning registration systems, and would disproportionately affect Maine's rural voters, voters who change their names, and again older voters. At the Maine BMV we have seen firsthand how difficult it is for married women to obtain proper credentials. Mainers from border communities who were born in Canada, because that is where the nearest hospital was at the time of their birth, often have difficulty proving their U.S. citizenship. We encounter the delays with documentary proof of citizenship routinely at the BMV, where we have staff with specialized training in citizenship documentation, unlike within CEC. DPOC as a condition for voter registration would certainly increase costs of election administration and contribute to the stress and workload of local election officials who lack the resources for implementation.

Additionally, Maine already carefully screens all voters for U.S. citizenship consistent with the NVRA's requirements (see 52 U.S.C.A. § 20508(b)(2)(B) & (3)). Maine Online Voter Registration (OVR) applications are cross-referenced with BMV records and cannot be validated unless the provided information exactly matches, and those records identify the applicant as a citizen. If the applicant can only provide the last four digits of their social security number because they lack a state identification card, the CVR system will match with federal data before verifying the registration. Additionally, Maine's AVR will not offer BMV customers the opportunity to register to vote if records reflect that the customer is not a U.S. citizen. MEGA's definitions of DPOC would disrupt these robust and well-functioning voting systems in Maine.

Furthermore, MEGA would impose monthly review of eligibility of all registrants, unlikely to produce worthwhile results as citizenship status would not change on a monthly basis for the vast majority. States would then also be required to maintain public lists of individuals determined ineligible to vote for reasons of non-citizenship, possibly discouraging additional eligible voters from registering. For election workers, these systems would add undue stress and expenses, or result in the rejection of thousands of ballots. Performing list maintenance is a significant undertaking, as each potentially no-longer-eligible registrant must be carefully investigated by staff before any action may be taken to avoid the disenfranchisement of legal voters.

Regarding Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), since its implementation in 2016, we have found in Maine that voters appreciate RCV and the option to rank candidates on their ballots. We have also not found great difficulty in conducting RCV elections. We use a simple ballot design with clear instructions on ballot markings and have a number of resources on our website explaining how RCV works. MEGA would ban RCV in federal elections, which would cause even more significant administrative and equipment costs in here in Maine specifically.

Perhaps most concerning though, MEGA grants the Department of Justice and private citizens new avenues to file suit against election officials. This would cause local governments to divert millions of dollars from public services to legal fees over the MEGA Act's implementation.

Maine is proud of our free, safe and secure elections. We routinely rank in the top of the nation in voter turnout. Indeed, in 2024, we were fourth in the nation with 80.9% of Maine's registered voters turning

out to vote. We are currently prosecuting one case of voter fraud – a man who attempted to vote twice but was caught. The MEGA Act seems designed to make it harder for United States citizens to vote, reducing turnout in hopes of changing the outcomes of future elections. We urge you to reject this partisan attempt to nationalize elections.

Sincerely,



Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State