AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **29-250**

AGENCY NAME: Department of Secretary of State, **Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions**

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**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULEMAKING ACTIVITY:**

**CHAPTER 200:** Rules for the Use of Expedited Service in Corporations

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 10 M.R.S. § 1527-B; 13-B M.R.S. § 1402-A; 13-C M.R.S. § 124; 31 M.R.S. § 1457; 31 M.R.S. § 1669; and 31 M.R.S. § 813

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: All customers of the Division of Corporations.

**CHAPTER 201:** Rules for the Sale of Publications in Corporations

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 10 M.R.S. § 1527-D; 13 M.R.S. § 905; 13-B M.R.S. § 1405; 13‑C M.R.S. § 143; 31 M.R.S. § 1459; 31 M.R.S. § 1671; and 31 M.R.S. § 815

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: All customers of the Division of Corporations.

**CHAPTER 240:** Rules for Limited Liability Partnerships under Title 31, Ch. 15

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 31 M.R.S. § 812

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any customer of the Division of Corporations filing documents for Limited Liability Partnerships.

**CHAPTER 250:** Rules for Business Corporations under Title 13-C

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 13-C M.R.S. § 141

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any customer of the Division of Corporations filing documents for business corporations.

**CHAPTER 260:** Rules for Nonprofit Corporations under Title 13-B

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 13-B M.R.S. § 1302-A

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any customer of the Division of Corporations filing documents for nonprofit corporations under Title 13-B.

**CHAPTER 270:** Rules for Limited Partnerships under Title 31, Ch. 19

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 31 M.R.S. § 1456

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any customer of the Division of Corporations filing documents for limited partnerships.

**CHAPTER 280:** Rules for Marks Registered under Title 10, Ch. 301-A

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 10 M.R.S. § 1527-A

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any customer of the Division of Corporations filing documents for a mark in the State of Maine.

**CHAPTER 290:** Rules for Limited Liability Companies under Title 31, Ch. 13

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 31 M.R.S. § 1668

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any customer of the Division of Corporations filing documents for limited liability companies.

**CHAPTER 401:** Administrative Rules for Uniform Commercial Code Title 11, Article 9-A

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 11 M.R.S. § 9-1526

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any interested person wishing to file UCC liens or requesting information on filed UCC liens.

**CHAPTER 502:** Rules Governing the Conduct and Procedures for Election Recounts, in Election Contests Determined by Plurality

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 737-A

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Candidates for offices in which a recount has been requested.

**CHAPTER 505:** Voter List Maintenance Procedures

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 161

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: All municipalities in the State of Maine as well as newly registered voters and registered voters who wish their names to be removed from their respective voter registration lists.

**CHAPTER 510:** Administrative Complaint Procedure for Title III of the *Help America Vote Act of 2002* (HAVA)

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 222

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any person who believes that a violation of Title III of the *Help America Vote Act of 2002* (HAVA) has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur in a federal election.

**CHAPTER 520:** Rules Regarding Publication of Public Comments on Statewide Referenda

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1 M.R.S. § 354

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any person or group who wishes to submit a public comment for or against a statewide referenda question for publication in the Citizen’s Guide to the Referendum Election.

**CHAPTER 525:** Rules for Administering the Central Issuance and Processing of UOCAVA Absentee Ballots

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 783

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Uniformed Service and Overseas voters (“UOCAVA” voters) who cast a ballot for a federal or state election.

**CHAPTER 535:** Rules Governing the Administration of Elections Determined by Ranked-choice Voting

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 723-A

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Candidates seeking an office that is determined by Ranked-choice voting, municipal election officials and Maine voters.

**CHAPTER 536:** Rules Establishing Procedures for Requesting and Conducting Recounts of Elections Determined by Ranked-choice Voting

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 723-A

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Candidates seeking a recount for an office that is determined by Ranked-choice voting.

**CHAPTER 550:** Rules for Determining Voter Intent

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 696

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipal election officials who count ballots for statewide elections.

**CHAPTER 700:** Rules Governing Notaries Public, Notarial Officers, Notarial Acts and the Procedures for Electronic and Remote Notarization

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 4 M.R.S. § 1928 and § 1915

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any person applying for a notary public commission, renewing a commission, or seeking authority to perform electronic or remote notarizations, as well as technology providers seeking to become authorized to provide electronic or remote notarization technology services to Maine notaries public.

**CHAPTER 720:** Rules Governing the Licensing of Marriage Officiants who are Authorized to Solemnize Marriages in Maine

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 M.R.S. § 90-G

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Any person applying for a Marriage Officiant License to solemnize marriages in Maine and any person with an active commission as a Notary Public who also wishes to have a Marriage Officiant License.

**CHAPTER 800:** Procedures for the Electronic Filing of Rules

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 M.R.S. § 8056

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: All rulemaking agencies.

**CHAPTER 900:** Administration of Address Confidentiality Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 M.R.S. § 90-B

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking who wish to limit access to their addresses.

**CHAPTER 950**: Rules for Digital Signatures

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 10 M.R.S. § 9503

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to update and clarify this rule during the next year.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: State agency customers desiring to file electronic transactions which require a digital signature.

**CHAPTER xxx**: Rules Governing the Online Voter Registration Process

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 152

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to adopt rules pursuant to PL 2023, c. 304, section A-38.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine residents, who are U.S. Citizens, and who wish to register to vote or update their existing voter registration using the online voter registration process that will be made available no later than February 1, 2024 and will be accessed from the Secretary of State’s publicly accessible website.

**CHAPTER xxx**: Rules Governing Pollwatchers, Party Workers and Others Who may be Present in the Polling Place

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 627

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may adopt rules pursuant to PL 2021, c. 246, §5.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine voters, party and campaign workers and others who may wish to observe the election process at a Maine voting place.

**CHAPTER xxx**: Rules Governing Post-election Audits

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 726

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may adopt rules pursuant to PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. ZZ, §2.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipal election officials, candidates, party and campaign workers and others who will have an interest in how post-election audits will be conducted.

**CHAPTER xxx**: Rules Governing Inspection of Absentee Ballot Applications and Envelopes Before They are Processed

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 21-A M.R.S. § 760-B

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may adopt rules pursuant to PL 2024, c. 304, section A-32, which was effective on June 26, 2024.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipal election officials, Maine voters and people involved with candidate or issue campaigns who want to inspect absentee ballot applications and envelopes containing voted ballots before they are processed to be sure that these materials have been handled properly by the municipalities.

**CHAPTER xxx:** Rules Governing the Process of Reporting Threats or Harassment of Public Officials

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 21-A § 675

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to adopt rules according to PL 2021, c. 568, section 7, regarding the process for submitting reports to the Secretary of State.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipal election officials, Maine voters and other municipal employees who observe or perceive that a public official is being threatened or harassed due to their role in the conduct of federal, state or municipal elections.

**CHAPTER xxx:** Rules Governing the Administration of the Central Voter Registration System (CVR)

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 21-A § 194

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to adopt rules regarding administration of the CVR to determine pricing, accessibility and availability of information contained in the database, the appropriate use and resale of information and to identify additional system features or voter information to be included in the system or provide for the confidentiality of certain personal information or limitations on the use and distribution of that information.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipal election officials, Maine voters and people involved with candidate or issue campaigns who desire access to information contained within the database.

**CHAPTER xxx:** Rules for the Audit of the Central Voter Registration System (CVR) pursuant to the Implementation of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 21-A § 237

PURPOSE: The Secretary of State may find it necessary to adopt rules regarding auditing the Central Voter Registration System (CVR) in relation to the implementation and ongoing use of AVR to determine the accuracy and reliability of the data.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Prior to October 1, 2026.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipal election officials, Maine voters and people involved with candidate or issue campaigns who desire access to information contained within the database.