

## **Resolution #10 – Preserving Voter Access**

### **Resolution Title: Preserving Voter Access**

1 RESOLVED that the 206<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine (EDOM) supports  
2 legislation that would support, improve, and preserve voting access for all, and be it further

3 RESOLVED, that such legislation would include:

- 4 • preserving automatic voter registration;
- 5 • preserving same-day voter registration;
- 6 • rejecting any requirement to present ID when voting;
- 7 • preparing for natural and man-made disasters that threaten voting access;
- 8 • preserving online registration;
- 9 • expanding the circle of people who are eligible to vote;
- 10 • preserving ongoing absentee voter status for seniors and people with disabilities;
- 11 • continuing the inclusion of prepaid return postage for absentee ballots;
- 12 • preserving the right to request absentee ballots by phone and by family members;
- 13 • preserving no-excuse absentee voting;
- 14 • preserving long-term mailing lists for absentee voters;
- 15 • preserving early absentee voting;
- 16 • enabling weekend voting and extended hours;
- 17 • and, guaranteeing an adequate number of voting locations and drop boxes, and be it  
18 further

19 RESOLVED, that the 206<sup>th</sup> EDOM Convention encourages its parishioners to vote ‘No’ on the  
20 Voter ID referendum on the November 2025 ballot, and be it further

21 RESOLVED, that the 206th Diocesan Convention directs the Bishop’s office to forward this  
22 resolution to the Governor, the Secretary of State and the leadership of the Maine state  
23 legislature to encourage legislation that will protect and expand voters’ rights and access as  
24 outlined in this resolution, and be it further

25 RESOLVED that Diocesan communications staff support this resolution by including it in parish  
26 communications prior to Election Day 2025 and be it further

27 RESOLVED that the Cathedral of St. Luke Public Policy and Environmental Action Team report  
28 on this resolution annually at Diocesan Convention, and monitor future legislation that would  
29 limit access to voting and continue to advocate for voting rights.

**Brief Explanation:**

The purpose of this resolution is to bring awareness to the continued attacks against voting rights in the State of Maine. Maine has benefitted from decades of robust voting protections which enshrines multiple ways of voting both absentee and in-person, allowing all Mainers access to fulfill their civic duty.

The Episcopal Church has been steadfast in its support of voting rights. Most recently, the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church passed resolution 2022-C054: Advocate for Legislation to Protect and Expand Voting Rights and Access, which unequivocally supports access to voting and rejects attempts to restrict access.

As we are all equally created in God's image, in a democratic country all citizens should have equal access to voting.

The proposed Voter ID referendum would

- require photo ID to vote and to vote absentee, and would exclude a number of currently accepted IDs (like student and tribal IDs).
- would repeal ongoing absentee voting.
- limits the use and number of absentee ballot drop boxes to the point where some towns may find it impractical to offer them.
- makes it impossible for voters to request an absentee ballot over the phone.
- Prevent an authorized third party from delivering an absentee ballot, a service that many older and disabled Mainers rely on.

These restrictions will harm every type of voter, especially disabled, older and rural voters. All of the evidence suggests that voter IDs don't prevent voter fraud. Maine already has safeguards in place to prevent fraud, cyber-attacks, and other kinds of foul play that would attempt to subvert our elections.

**Supporting website links (if any):** <https://jimwallis.substack.com/p/why-voting-rights-are-sacred>

[https://digitalarchives.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts\\_resolution.pl?resolution=2022-C054](https://digitalarchives.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution.pl?resolution=2022-C054)

<https://www.lwvme.org/node/3444>

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/peoples-veto-or-citizens-initiative-resources/current-citizen-initiatives-and-peoples-vetoes>

**Submitting individual or organization:** Sarah Braik and Eleanor Roberts, the Cathedral of St. Luke

**Contact person:** Sarah Braik

**Email address:** [sbraik642@gmail.com](mailto:sbraik642@gmail.com)

**Phone number:** 207-415-6556

## **Submission Questionnaire**

Do you have an individual or organization co-sponsoring this resolution? Yes

Co-sponsoring individual or organization: The Cathedral of St. Luke Public Policy and Environmental Action Team

Co-sponsor contact person: Sarah Braik

Email address for co-sponsor: [sbraik642@gmail.com](mailto:sbraik642@gmail.com)

Phone number for co-sponsor: 207-415-6556

Does this resolution have any budgetary impacts to the Episcopal Diocese of Maine (EDOM) Annual Budget? No

Apart from financial impact to the diocese, would implementing this resolution have any financial impact to our congregations? No

Does the action proposed by this resolution fall under the charge of an established diocesan committee, commission, council, or ministry? No

Who will be responsible to present and address questions regarding the resolution at town halls and at the convention? Sarah Braik

Email address: [sbraik642@gmail.com](mailto:sbraik642@gmail.com)

Phone number: 207-415-6556

Assuming passage, who is responsible for completing the action being resolved by this resolution? Diocesan communications staff, the Cathedral of St, Luke Public Policy and Environmental Action Team

If the resolution is adopted, how long do you plan on the action(s) being in effect? For the foreseeable future

Reporting on an adopted resolution's progress is required at the 2026 Convention. Who will be responsible for performing this task? Sarah Braik

If you have documents that support your resolution, please attach them here.NA