

## **ORDINANCE REGULATING WRITE-IN CANDIDATES IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

**Section 1. Authority.** This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the provisions of 30-A M.R.S.A. § 2501(3).

**Section 2. Applicability.** This Ordinance shall apply to all municipal elections held at least 90 days after the date of enactment.

**Section 3. Adoption of Title 21-A provisions for write-in candidates.** Municipal elections shall be governed by the provisions of 21-A M.R.S.A. § 696(2) and 21-A M.R.S.A. § 722-A.

**Section 4. Votes for a write-in candidate.** Votes for a write-in candidate in a municipal election will be counted only if that candidate has filed a timely declaration of write-in candidacy with the Town Clerk in accordance with the requirements of 21-A M.R.S.A. § 722-A.

- a. The person must file a declaration of write-in candidacy with the Town Clerk, on a form approved by the Town Clerk.
- b. The write-in declaration must be filed with the Town Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 60<sup>th</sup> day prior to the election.
- c. The candidate must meet all other qualifications for that office.

**Section 5. Exceptions.** Votes for a write-in candidate who has not filed a declaration of candidacy as required by Section 4 of this Ordinance must be counted if:

- a. The printed ballot does not include a properly nominated candidate for the office; or
- b. A properly nominated candidate for the office listed on the ballot withdraws from the race before or on election day.