

To: MMA's Key Municipal Officials

From: Stephan Bunker, President, Maine Municipal Association

Date: May 2, 2016

Re: Nominations to MMA's Legislative Policy Committee

This memo begins the process of electing 70 dedicated municipal officials to serve on MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) over the next two-year period. Given the importance of this Policy Committee to MMA's overall mission, I urge you to help us identify nominees for service during the 2016-2018 biennium.

The LPC brings elected and appointed officials together from towns and cities across the state. According to its by-laws, the purpose of the LPC is "*to define municipal interests and to maximize those interests through effective participation in the legislative process.*" Operating something like a town meeting, the LPC establishes MMA's public policy positions on all matters of direct and statewide municipal interest for representation in the State House. The LPC meets at the MMA building in Augusta once a month during the first several months of each legislative session.

After the next LPC is elected, its first task will be to develop MMA's legislative agenda for submission to the Legislature in January 2017. Beginning in early 2017 the LPC will meet to determine MMA's position on all municipally-related legislation submitted by the Governor and legislators. MMA's legislative staff advocates for the positions established by the LPC.

The membership of the LPC tends to be a mixture of seasoned veterans, who bring an extraordinary depth of experience to the table, and new members with fresh concerns and insights. Speaking as a former Chair of the LPC, it is my observation that the debates and decision-making accomplished by this Committee often include public policy discussions of the highest caliber. The results certainly help establish MMA's credibility in the Maine legislative process.

A Nomination Form is enclosed. Two municipal officials are elected from each of Maine's 35 Senate Districts. What follows is background information on the process of election, and the suggested time commitment to serve.

Background Information. Any elected or appointed municipal official holding office in any MMA member community is eligible to serve on the Committee. There are two seats on the LPC for each State Senate District. Members serve two-year terms, representing their own community and the other municipalities in their Senate District.

LPC activities require a time commitment of approximately ten hours a month during legislative sessions (i.e., during the first 4 months of each calendar year) which includes attendance at the monthly meeting and contacts with other communities and legislators in the district as issues arise. The LPC is also engaged in the development of MMA's legislative agenda during the fall and early winter of each even-numbered year, which typically involves at least one additional meeting in Augusta. All mileage expenses are reimbursed. MMA's strength as a municipal advocate depends on the active help of a dedicated LPC membership.

More information about MMA's Legislative Policy Committee and the Association's entire advocacy program can be found at the Legislative/Advocacy link at MMA's website <http://www.memun.org/LegislativeAdvocacy/TheLPCHandbook.aspx>. In particular, the *LPC Handbook* describes the Association's overall policy development process and procedures in more detail.

Nomination Process

Your municipality is entitled to nominate a representative to the LPC.

- The nominee may be either elected or appointed, but must be serving currently as a municipal official.
- You may nominate any municipal official from any member town or city within your Senate/LPC District; you do not have to nominate someone from your municipality.
- The names and brief bios of all municipal officials properly nominated will appear on the LPC ballot, which will be distributed on June 23rd.

Nominee Profile

Because the municipal officers may not be familiar with a nominee from another municipality, a brief description of each nominee who completes the enclosed **Nominee Profile Sheet** will be provided with the ballots that are distributed in late June. Please make sure that the person you nominate has a chance to complete the Nominee Profile Sheet and that it is returned to MMA with the Nomination Form.

Deadline for Submitting Nomination

- ✍ The Chairman of your Board of Selectman, Council or Assessors (the "nominator") *and the nominee* must sign the nomination form for it to be valid.
- ☒ The form must be returned to MMA by 5:00 p.m. on June 21, 2016, to be counted. Ballots will be mailed out immediately after the nomination process closes, so make sure the nomination form is received by MMA by that deadline. Please return the nomination form to **Laura Ellis** at MMA either by mail (60 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine, 04330), by FAX (624-0129) or by email (Lellis@memun.org).

If you have any questions, please call MMA's State and Federal Relations staff at 1-800-452-8786 or 623-8428.