

STATE OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

DOCKET NO. OJ-17-1

In the Matter of
Request for Opinion of the Justices

PROCEDURAL ORDER

On Tuesday, February 7, 2017, the Maine State Senate referred three Questions to the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Maine Constitution, related to An Act to Establish Ranked-Choice Voting, which was approved by Maine voters on November 8, 2016, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Maine Constitution.

The Justices hereby invite a representative for each of the Maine Senate, the House of Representatives, Governor LePage, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General, and any other interested person or entity to submit briefs addressing

1. whether the Questions propounded present a "solemn occasion," pursuant to article VI, section 3 of the Maine Constitution; and
2. the law regarding the Questions propounded.

Any person or entity submitting a brief to the Court must do so by filing the brief, as described below, with the Executive Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court, at 205 Newbury Street, Room 139, Portland, Maine 04101, **at or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday March 3, 2017.**

Responsive briefs are not required, but any person or entity that filed an initial brief may file a responsive brief **at or before noon on Friday, March 17, 2017.**

Briefs and responsive briefs must conform to the requirements of M.R. App. P. 9(f), and comply with the following:

- a. the front cover must be white and must contain the following information:
- the designation that the matter is “Before the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court”;
 - the docket number of the matter, OJ-17-1;
 - the title of the matter, “In the Matter of Request for Opinion of the Justices”;
 - the title of the document as either a “Brief of” or “Responsive Brief of” followed by the name of the person or entity filing the brief or responsive brief; and
 - the name, address, and Maine bar number of counsel representing the filer or, if the filer is not represented by counsel, the name and address of the filer.
- b. Briefs must be in 14-point font or larger, double spaced—except for quotes.
- c. Briefs may not be longer than 25 pages. Responsive briefs may not exceed 10 pages.
- d. Briefs are not required to be bound.
- e. Any person or entity filing a brief shall provide two copies to the Clerk’s Office, and an electronic copy of any brief (which need not be signed) shall be simultaneously emailed in the form of a single text-based pdf file to lawcourt.clerk@courts.maine.gov.

Oral Argument will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., in Courtroom 12, in the Cumberland County Courthouse.

All filings and orders in this matter can be found, within a reasonable time after filing, on the Court’s website at:
www.courts.maine.gov/quick/senate.

Dated February 7, 2017

For the Justices,

_____/s/
Leigh I. Saufley
Chief Justice