

STATE OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

Docket No. OJ-26-1

In the Matter of
Request for Opinion of the Justices

PROCEDURAL ORDER

On Tuesday, February 10, 2026, the Legislature referred a question to the justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Maine Constitution, related to Legislative Document 1666, Senate Paper 660, An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes.

The justices invite the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and any other interested person or entity to submit a brief addressing

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

Any person or entity submitting a brief to the Court must do so by filing the brief with the Executive Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court as described below. The brief must be filed **at or before 4:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026.**

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 March 20, 2026.**

A brief or responsive brief must comply with the following:

- a. the first page must be a cover or title page 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-26-1;
 - 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, email address, and Maine bar number of counsel representing the filer or, if the filer is not represented by counsel, the name, address, and email address of the filer.
- b. The brief must contain a table of contents and table of authorities.
 - c. The brief must be signed as provided by M.R. App. P. 1C.
 - d. The text of the brief must be typewritten on pages that are 8-1/2 x 11 inches in size, with the typed matter double-spaced in at least 14-point font, except that footnotes may be single spaced and may appear in 11-point font.
 - e. The brief may not be longer than 25 pages. A responsive brief may not exceed 10 pages. The cover page, table of contents, table of authorities, and any signature block following the concluding text of the brief do not count toward calculating the page limit.
 - f. The pages of the brief must be sequentially numbered, beginning with the cover page as page 1 and using only Arabic numerals for page numbers (i.e., 1, 2, 3), including for the table of contents and table of authorities. Any blank pages must also be numbered. The page number may be suppressed on the cover page.
 - g. The brief must be in the form of a text-based Portable Document Format (pdf) file, converted from the original word-processing document (and not scanned).
 - h. The brief must be filed as an attachment to an email sent to lawcourt-clerk@courts.maine.gov.

The Executive Clerk may reject a brief that does not substantially comply with the requirements and may require the filer to file a replacement brief within 24 hours of the Clerk’s message rejecting the brief.

Oral Argument will be held on April 1, 2026, at 1:30 PM, in Courtroom 12 of the Cumberland County Courthouse, Portland, Maine.

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/news/question

Dated February 11, 2026

For the Justices,

/s/ Valerie Stanfill
Chief Justice