



April 8, 2026

Secretary of State
State of Maine Elections Division
148 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0148

Attn: Jill Harrison, RFP Coordinator

RE: RFP# 202602020 – Lease of Ballot Scanning and Tabulating System and Accessible Voting System

Dear Secretary of State and Members of the Elections Division,

VotingWorks is strongly interested in partnering with Maine to provide vote tabulation equipment. Unfortunately, the constraints of the RFP make it impossible for us to participate. The 6-week delivery timeline effectively limits the field to one or two large legacy vendors who maintain warehouse inventory – typically of older equipment. In addition, the weak certification requirements may serve Maine poorly: the RFP accepts systems that have merely applied for VVSG 2.0 certification rather than passed.

We recommend that the State instead run a small, competitive pilot program in November 2026 and re-issue the RFP for statewide deployment in 2027, fully certified to VVSG 2.0, with plenty of time to work out all operational details in time for the 2028 presidential cycle.

About Us

VotingWorks is the nation's only nonprofit voting system manufacturer that makes the most transparent and auditable voting system in America. Our system, VxSuite, is a complete paper-ballot voting platform including precinct scanners, accessible ballot marking devices, a central scanner for high-speed batch scanning, and comprehensive ballot design & election management software.

We have direct experience serving New England elections. In New Hampshire, VotingWorks was certified by the Ballot Law Commission in September 2023, after a

year-long process that included real election pilots and iterative improvements based on feedback from local election officials. Our system has been deployed in New Hampshire municipal and state elections, and post-election audits have consistently confirmed accurate results. We understand the unique demands of decentralized municipal election administration in New England.

We are currently undergoing VVSG 2.0 certification testing with the EAC for VxSuite 4.0. Our testing with SLI Compliance is almost done, and we expect full VVSG 2.0 certification by Fall 2026.

Timeline favors incumbents and legacy hardware

The RFP issued by the State of Maine requires delivery of 1,200 precinct scanners, 600 AVS units, and 2 high-speed tabulators to Augusta between mid July and mid August 2026, based on a contract start date estimated to be May 29, 2026.

Very few vendors can manufacture 1,800 new units in 6-10 weeks, and no vendors, to our knowledge, can do so with equipment that is guaranteed to be VVSG-2.0-compliant. Thus, this timeline effectively excludes more modern, more innovative vendors from competing. This is particularly unfortunate given the dramatic advances in security and usability that modern systems provide.

Maine should require full VVSG 2.0 certification

The RFP currently allows bidders to submit a proposal if their system has merely been "submitted for" VVSG 2.0 certification. Maine should instead require completed certification as a condition of award.

VVSG 2.0 is the most significant update to federal voting system standards in fifteen years. It includes powerful improvements to cybersecurity, accessibility, and auditability. Accepting a system that has only applied for certification means deploying equipment that has not yet been independently verified to meet these standards. That equipment will be at risk of never meeting the standard, at least not without significant hardware and software changes. If the certification process surfaces issues, as it routinely does, the State would face the choice of deploying a system that failed testing or scrambling to remediate mid-contract.

Several vendors, including VotingWorks, expect to complete VVSG 2.0 certification later this year. A procurement timeline that accounts for this would allow the State to require a fully certified system, verified by an independent test lab, before a single

ballot is scanned in a Maine election. That would significantly reduce risk for the State of Maine.

A pilot program would serve Maine particularly well

Instead of a compressed, low-competition, and risky timeline, we encourage the State to consider the approach that has worked well in neighboring New Hampshire.

New Hampshire's Ballot Law Commission spent a year evaluating new voting systems through an open, consultative process. Multiple vendors demonstrated their equipment publicly. Interested towns volunteered to pilot devices from three vendors in real municipal and state elections. The Secretary of State's office conducted post-election hand-count audits. Vendors made improvements based on field experience. By the time new systems were certified for general use, both state and local officials had high confidence in the equipment, because they had seen it work.

Maine could follow a similar model. The State could invite qualified vendors to participate in small, supervised pilot deployments with willing municipalities for the November 2026 election, using the current system as the primary counting method and piloting new equipment alongside it. This would give the State real-world performance data, give municipal clerks hands-on experience, and give vendors the opportunity to demonstrate their systems under Maine's specific conditions.

A competitive pilot in 2026, followed by a full procurement for statewide deployment in 2027, would position Maine to have a fully certified, field-tested system well ahead of the 2028 presidential election, selected from a range of competitive options, without taking a risk on incomplete federal certification.

Our recommendation

We respectfully suggest that the State:

- Require full VVSG 2.0 certification, not just submission, as a condition of contract award.
- Invite pre-qualified vendors to run small pilots of their systems alongside the current equipment in November 2026.

- Re-issue the RFP targeting statewide deployment in 2027, with full readiness for the 2028 election cycle.
- Open the procurement to the broadest possible competitive field, ensuring more modern, more secure, and more usable technology for Maine elections.

Our commitment

VotingWorks wants to serve Maine. Our open-source, nonprofit model is well suited to the State's emphasis on transparency, security, and cost efficiency. Our system supports all of Maine's needs, is on schedule to be VVSG-2.0 certified by Fall 2026, and has been extensively validated in the field in settings very similar to Maine. We've received particularly strong positive feedback on our system: setup is easy, scanning is fast, and our transparency is unmatched, which consistently puts skeptical voters' minds at ease.

Unfortunately, as much as we want to, we simply are unable to participate in the RFP given its 6-week statewide deployment timeline.

However, we would welcome the opportunity to participate in a pilot program for the November 2026 election, and to compete in a full procurement on a timeline that allows us to bring a fully VVSG 2.0 certified system to Maine.

We are happy to meet with the Election Division staff at any time to demonstrate our system, discuss Maine's requirements, or answer any questions. We are also eager to demonstrate our equipment to Maine voters, if the State wishes to set up such a public demonstration.

Respectfully,



Ben Adida
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