

Resolve 9- 11/12

Passage 7-1 11/7/11 (Coyne absent, Leeman opposed)

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (MAYOR)

KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)

DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)

EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (3)

CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

## CITY OF PORTLAND

IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)

JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)

DORY RICHARDS WAXMAN (A/L)

JILL C. DUSON (A/L)

### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION AND EFFORT TO REINSTATE THIS RIGHT ON ELECTION DAY**

**WHEREAS**, in 1973, the Maine State Legislature established the right for Maine voters to register at the polls on Election Day; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine has the third-highest voter turn-out in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the right to vote is fundamental to our democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, 4,333 voters registered on election day in 2008 in the City of Portland and 2,648 voters registered on election day in 2010 in the City of Portland; and

**WHEREAS**, one half of the same-day voter registrations in Portland in 2008 and 85% of same-day voter registrations in Portland in 2010 were by voters who moved to a new address within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 9, 2011 the Maine State Legislature passed LD 1376, "An Act to Preserve the Integrity of the Voter Registration and Election Process;" and

**WHEREAS**, LD 1376 repealed the right of Maine voters to register to vote on election day, if in person, and no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> day before election day, if by mail or by a third person;

**WHEREAS**, eliminating the right of Maine voters to register to vote on election day will make it more difficult for some otherwise eligible voters to exercise their right to vote, particularly young, low-income and elderly voters; and

**WHEREAS**, on Election Day, November 8, 2011, Maine voters will be asked whether or not they wish to repeal LD 1376 and reinstate same-day voter registration;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Portland City Council supports same-day voter registration and encourages City of Portland voters to vote yes on Question One this Election Day in order to reinstate the right of Maine residents to register to vote on Election Day.