



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

CITY OF BANGOR

Carolynn J. Lear
City Manager

Legislative Committee
Monday, June 15, 2026
73 Harlow Street – Council Chambers
Immediately following Business & Economic Development Committee

AGENDA

1. Legislative Committee Ordinance Amendments
2. Lobbyist Services
3. Other Updates

Upcoming Items:
TBD



CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Council Meeting Date: XXXX X, 2026

Item No: 26-

Responsible Dept: City Manager

Action Requested: Ordinance

Map/Lot: N/A

Title, Ordinance

Amending the Code of the City of Bangor to Modify the Duties and Responsibilities of the Legislative Committee

Summary

On February 25, 2026 the Bangor City Council established a standing Legislative Committee to liaise with the City’s state legislative delegation and other elected officials on legislative matters of City interest; provide the City’s state legislative delegation and other elected officials with input on legislative proposals; and seek sponsorship of legislation in the City’s interest.

Council wishes to include additional duties and responsibilities within the scope of the standing Legislative Committee to permit the Committee to engage in conversations with candidates for office, partners, and other stakeholders on topics falling within the purview of the Legislative Committee.

Committee Action

Committee: Legislative Committee

Meeting Date: XXXX X, 2026

Action:

For:

Against:

Staff Comments & Approvals

City Manager

City Solicitor

Finance Director

Introduced for: First Reading



CITY COUNCIL ORDINANCE

Date: XXXX X, 2026

Assigned to Councilor: Carson

ORDINANCE, Amending the Code of the City of Bangor to Modify the Duties and Responsibilities of the Legislative Committee

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR AS FOLLOWS, THAT

The Code of the City of Bangor is amended as follows:

Chapter 9. City Council

...

Article I. Rules and Orders

...

§ 9-8. Standing committees.

...

H. Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) To liaise with the City's state legislative delegation and other elected bodies on legislative matters of City interest.

(2) To provide the City's state legislative delegation and other elected bodies with input on legislative proposals.

(3) To seek sponsorship of legislation that is in the City's interest.

(4) To engage in conversations with candidates for office, partners, and other stakeholders on topics falling within the purview of the Legislative Committee.

(45) To keep the full Council apprised of the Committee's activities and obtain appropriate full Council approval prior to taking any action on behalf of the Council.



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

CITY OF BANGOR

Carolynn J. Lear
City Manager

To: Legislative Committee
From: Carolynn Lear, City Manager
Date: June 15, 2026
RE: Government Relations Services

During the inaugural meeting of the Legislative Committee on May 4, 2026, the Committee expressed interest in exploring the City's procurement of lobbying/government relations services. The following is an outline of what services the City already receives through various other groups:

Maine Municipal Association

The Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) Advocacy & Communications staff works with the State Legislature during each legislative session, and on related legislative matters between sessions, with the goal of advancing the interests of municipal government and working in a constructive way toward establishing an appropriate relationship between state and local government in the delivery of governmental services. Staff also advocate on behalf of municipalities in the state rulemaking process when it impacts municipalities and communicates with Maine Congressional delegation when federal proposals impact municipalities.

MMA discusses legislation and selects its legislative platforms, policies, and positions through a 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), which is made up of two municipal officials from each of the state's 35 Senate Districts. The LPC representatives are elected to that position by the municipal officers within their Senate District. This method of position development can dilute Bangor and other service centers' influence and as a result, the positions of MMA tend to reflect the positions and priorities of smaller towns. Often, Bangor's priorities are aligned with smaller towns, but sometimes it is not.

Bangor pays dues to MMA for a laundry list of very important services that we utilize extensively. The amount we pay for legislative advocacy is not separately stated and only makes up a small portion of how we utilize MMA.

Maine Service Centers Coalition

The Maine Service Centers Coalition (MSCC) is comprised of 27 towns and cities in Maine to articulate the importance of healthy and thriving service center communities, advocate for public policy that supports and contributes to the economic and social viability of our communities, and collaborates with municipal officials, legislators, state agencies and nonprofits to pursue quality of life. Bangor pays around \$4,000 each year to participate in this group. The MSCC pays Jim Mitchell of Mitchell, Tardy and Jackson to advocate on its behalf.

Maine Mayors Coalition

The Maine Mayors Coalition (MMC) is a nonpartisan group representing the mayors of eleven Maine communities – Auburn, Bangor, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, Waterville, and Westbrook. The MMC advocates for policies that recognize the vital services Maine cities

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provide and the positive impact Maine cities have on the state, primarily at the state level. The MMC pays Jim Mitchell of Mitchell, Tardy and Jackson to advocate on its behalf.

Bangor pays around \$4,000 each year to participate in this group.

Substantively, there is substantial overlap between the issues addressed by the MSCC and MMC. The primary difference is that the MSCC is intended as a forum for City Managers and the MMC is intended as a forum for elected mayors, however, I and a small number of other City Managers are permitted to participate. Additionally, because the MMC is a smaller group of the largest municipalities, the policy goals are the most aligned among all of the groups we participate in.