

To: Jeff Kobrock, City Manager and Gardiner City Council
From: Deirdre Berglund, City Clerk
Date: March 31, 2006
Subject: Consolidation of Voting Places/Voting Districts

Step 1 – Consolidate Voting Places – Ask the Secretary of State’s permission to allow three voting districts vote outside of their district and consolidate voting places for June 2006 Primary. All voting would take place at one location. We would set up four separate voting areas, one for each district.

Step 2 – Pass Ordinance to Consolidate Voting Districts for future elections. Consolidated Voting districts would not affect the council. Councilors still represent district per charter. At voting place, when local district seat open, ballot would be given to voter for each district

- All elections would be held at one location.
- More community oriented
- Convenience, residents wouldn’t have to remember which district they are
- Would have one incoming voting list by alpha for the whole city
- Machines could be programmed to accept all ballots, would need fewer machines**
- Administratively, easier to run. Currently, City Clerk cannot be at all 4 districts. If one machine jams up or problem arises, voting halts or slows down until clerk can get there.

Suggested Location: Pray Street School

In 2004, Secretary of State’s office conducted a survey of all polling places in Maine to determine compliance with accessibility laws and standards. All four districts had issues that needed to be addressed.

District 1 – need to mark accessible parking spaces

District 2 –need to mark accessible parking spaces, parking not level, walkways not free of abrupt level changes, steep ramps, voting area door not wide enough.

District 3 – poor parking, not accessible, steep incline for walkway

District 4 – Need to mark accessible parking spaces

**Currently need to budget for replacement machines in June 07. (4 districts @\$6500, not including spare)