

STATE OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

DOCKET NO. OJ-23-1

In the Matter of
Request for Opinion of the Justices

PROCEDURAL ORDER

On May 16, 2023, the Maine State Legislature referred five questions to the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Maine Constitution, related to four direct initiatives of voters that the Secretary of State transmitted to the 131st Legislature during its First Regular Session but that the Legislature did not act on during that session.

The Justices hereby invite a representative for each of the Maine Legislature, Governor Mills, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General, and any other interested person or entity, to submit briefs addressing

1. whether the Questions propounded present a “solemn occasion,” pursuant to article VI, section 3 of the Maine Constitution; and
2. the law regarding the Questions propounded.

Any person or entity submitting a brief to the Court must do so by filing two copies of the brief, as described below, with the Executive Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court, at 205 Newbury Street, Room 139, Portland, Maine 04101, **at or before 4:00 p.m. on May 26, 2023**, and emailing an electronic copy (which need not be signed) in the form of a single text-based pdf file to lawcourt.clerk@courts.maine.gov.

A person’s brief need not be bound but must conform to the requirements of M.R. App. P. 7A(g) (as amended by 2022 Me. Rules 03, effective July 13, 2022) and must comply with the following:

- a. the front cover must be white 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-23-1;
 - the title of the matter, “In the Matter of Request for Opinion of the Justices”;
 - the title of the document as a “Brief of” followed by the name of the person or entity filing the brief; and
 - the name, address, and Maine bar number of counsel representing the filer or, if the filer is not represented by counsel, the name and address of the filer; and
- b. the brief may not be longer than 25 pages.

Oral Argument will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., in Courtroom 7 of the Capital Judicial Center in Augusta.

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/initiatives.

Dated: May 16, 2023

For the Justices,

_____/s/_____
Valerie Stanfill
Chief Justice