

ABSTENTIONS

An abstention is a non-expression and cannot be considered a vote in favor of or against a motion.

Each member of a public body has the duty to express a choice or preference by voting on the issues, but can legally abstain from doing so when there is a statutory or ethical conflict of interest. Not to vote is to abstain.

Abstentions are intended for situations where a member may have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the matter being voted on, or when there is a statutory or ethical conflict of interest.

Legal Reference: 30 MRSA § 2605 et seq.

Cross Reference: BCB - Board Member Conflict of Interest
 BEDF - Voting Method

Adopted: June 11, 2001
Reviewed: March 13, 2006
Reviewed: December 08, 2008
Reviewed: December 12, 2011
Reviewed: December 8, 2014