



State of Maine  
**Office of the Public Advocate**  
112 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0112  
(207) 624-3687 (voice) 711 (TTY)  
[www.Maine.gov/meopa](http://www.Maine.gov/meopa)

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

William S. Harwood  
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE PROVIDES FACT SHEET FOR QUESTION 3 ON NOVEMBER 7 BALLOT

*As campaign heats up, the OPA wants voters to have facts to cast informed votes*

MEDIA CONTACT: William Harwood, 207-624-3687, [William.Harwood@maine.gov](mailto:William.Harwood@maine.gov)

**September 5, 2023 | Hallowell, ME** – In just over two months, Maine voters will be asked to vote on [Question 3](#) – whether to replace CMP and Versant with a new consumer owned utility. This is one of the most important utility issues to arise in many years. [The Office of the Public Advocate](#) (OPA) has received many requests for information about the proposal and to find out where we stand.

The OPA declines to take a position. We recognize that the ratepayers, on whose behalf we advocate, do not all agree on whether the proposal should be adopted. We respect those disagreements and the important role that voters play in determining whether the proposal should be adopted.

We also believe that the OPA can and should play a constructive role in helping voters make *informed* decisions when they vote on November 7<sup>th</sup>. There already are, and undoubtedly will be many more opinions and statements coming from both sides about the pros and cons of the proposal. We intend to serve as a trusted source of information for anyone who has questions or concerns about the accuracy or basis of such opinions and statements. We may not have all the answers, but we will do our best, based on the collective 75+ years of active involvement in utility regulation by OPA staff, to provide the clearest and most accurate responses we can.

To begin, we have prepared a seven-page summary of issues related to the proposal, addressing such questions as: Will rates be lower or higher; will service improve or decline; and will it help or hurt our efforts to meet our climate goals? A copy of the summary is available on the OPA's website [here](#). We hope citizens, who have not yet made up their mind how to vote, find it helpful. As always, our Office welcome calls, texts, and e-mails from CMP and Versant's 750,000 ratepayers with questions regarding Question 3.

###