

TOWN OF DEXTER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Dexter Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 8, 2025, at 6:30PM in the Town Council Chambers at 23 Main Street to consider the following:

1. Ordinance C2026-01 Sex Offender Residency Restrictions

Full text is available at the Town Office.

All people may appear to comment on the above matter.

Susan E. Reed, Town Clerk

IN TOWN COUNCIL
DEXTER, MAINE

ORDINANCE C2026-01

DECEMBER 11, 2025

BE IT ORDAINED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby amends Chapter 8: Miscellaneous Offenses by adding Section 8-7. Sex Offender Residency

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

To prohibit certain acts within the Town of Dexter in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community by using the government's recognized and traditional enforcement power to protect societal order, morality, and physical and emotional health in public places without infringing on protected First Amendment rights.

This ordinance is enacted pursuant to municipal home rule authority, Title 30-A M.R.S.A. 3014.

SECTION 2. RESTRICTION ON RESIDENCE OF CONVICTED SEX OFFENDERS

Convicted sex offender. A person convicted of any current or former Maine crime listed in former title 17, §§ 2922—2924 or title 17-A, chapter 11 or 12; a conviction for an attempt or solicitation of those listed crimes; or any conviction for any former or current crime

in any other jurisdiction in which the person engaged in substantially similar conduct to that of the earlier specified current or former Maine crimes.

Prohibition. A convicted sex offender whose crime involved a victim who had not attained the age of 14 years at the time of the offense may not establish a residence within seven hundred fifty (750) feet of the real property line of a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school or within seven hundred fifty (750) feet of the real property line of municipally owned property where children are the primary users, including, without limitation, playgrounds and athletic fields. The prohibition of this section shall not apply to persons who, on the date of adoption of this section, resided within the seven hundred fifty (750) foot restricted areas.

Penalties. Any person who, after written notice from the Town, fails or refuses to comply with its requirements of this section shall be subject to a minimum penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per day payable to the Town. In addition to monetary penalties, the Town may seek injunctive relief from the courts. If the Town prevails in an action for violation of this section, it shall be entitled to its reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

SECTION 3. PENALTIES

The violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for a first offense, one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for a second offense, and two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) for a third or subsequent offense, regardless of the time between offenses. Each act of violation and every day upon which any such violation shall occur shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to such penalties, the town may enjoin or abate any violation of this ordinance by appropriate action, and, if the court finds for the Town, the Town shall recover its costs of suit, including reasonable experts' fees, reasonable attorneys' fees, and reasonable investigative costs.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY

If any section, phrase, sentence, or portion of this ordinance is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of any other section, phrase, sentence, or portion thereof.

Filed January 8, 2026
DANNY HUTCHINS