Electronic Supporting Information for

Modifying Li⁺ and Anion Diffusivity in Polyacetal Electrolytes: A Pulsed-Field-Gradient NMR Study of Ion Self-Diffusion

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1. General Synthetic Considerations and Instrumentation

<u>Synthetic considerations</u> – All manipulations of air- and water-sensitive compounds were carried out under nitrogen in an MBraun Labmaster glovebox or by using standard Schlenk line techniques.

<u>1H and 13C NMR</u> – Spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III HD (¹H, 500 MHz) spectrometer with a broadband Prodigy cryoprobe, Varian INOVA 300 (¹H, 300 MHz), or Varian INOVA 400 (¹H, 400 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were referenced to protons on the residual solvent (for ¹H) and deuterated solvent itself (for ¹³C). Two-dimensional band-selective HSQC NMR spectroscopy was recorded using a standard pulse sequence (bsHSQCAD).

<u>High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS)</u> – Analyses were performed on a Thermo Scientific Exactive Orbitrap MS system equipped with an Ion Sense DART ion source.

<u>Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)</u> – Analyses were performed on a TA Instruments Q500 Thermogravimetric Analyzer. The samples were heated in a nitrogen atmosphere from 25 °C to 500 °C at a rate of 10 °C/min.

<u>Gel permeation chromatography (GPC)</u> – Analyses were carried out using an Agilent 1260 Infinity GPC System equipped with an Agilent 1260 Infinity autosampler and a refractive index detector. The Agilent GPC system was equipped with two Agilent PolyPore columns (5 micron, 4.6 mm ID) which were eluted with THF at 30 °C at 0.3 mL/min and calibrated using monodisperse polystyrene standards.

2. General Materials

Dichloromethane for air-sensitive reactions was purchased from Fisher, sparged with ultrahigh purity (UHP) grade nitrogen, passed through two columns of alumina, and dispensed under nitrogen into an oven-dried Straus flask followed by degassing via three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. Otherwise, solvents (acetonitrile, diethyl ether, heptane, hexanes, and isopropanol) were used as received. 1,3-Dioxolane (EO-MO) was purchased from Oakwood Chemical, dried over CaH₂ for 3 days, isolated via vacuum transfer, and degassed via three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. LiTFSI was purchased from Millipore Sigma. All other reagents were purchased from commercial sources (Millipore Sigma, Oakwood Chemical, TCI, and Fisher) and used without further purification.

3. Small Molecule Synthesis

1,3,6,9,12-Pentaoxacyclotetradecane (4EO-MO)



Tetraethylene glycol (30 g, 0.19 mol, 1.0 equiv), paraformaldehyde (6.0 g, 0.20 mol, 1.3 equiv), poly(phosphoric acid) (0.66 g, 5.7 mmol, 0.030 equiv), and heptane (100 mL) were combined in a 250 mL flask with a Dean-Stark trap, reflux

heptane (100 mL) were combined in a 250 mL flask with a Dean-Stark trap, reflux condenser, and magnetic stir bar. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 4 h, during which a significant amount of paraformaldehyde was trapped in the condenser. Water was collected as the bottom layer in the Dean-Stark trap. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and residual heptane was removed via rotary evaporation. The viscous, crude oligomeric product was distilled at 200 °C under high vacuum into a receiving flask cooled with a dry ice/acetone bath over several hours. The obtained mixture of tetraethylene glycol and 4EO-MO was then purified via fractional distillation under high vacuum at 130 °C to give the product in 31% yield. 4EO-MO was dried over CaH₂ for three days, distilled, and degassed via three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. This procedure is identical to that used in our prior report. ¹ ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.74 (s, 2H), 3.78 (m, 8H), 3.68 (m, 8H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 96.57, 71.07, 70.61, 68.06 ppm. HRMS (DART-MS): m/z calculated for C₉H₁₈O₅ [H]⁺ 207.1232, found 207.1218.

1,3,6,9-Tetraoxacycloundecane (3EO-MO)

Triethylene glycol (30 g, 0.20 mol, 1.0 equiv), paraformaldehyde (7.8 g, 0.26 mol, 1.3 equiv), poly(phosphoric acid) (0.85 g, 6.1 mmol, 0.030 equiv), and heptane (100 mL) were combined in a 250 mL flask with a magnetic stir bar, Dean-Stark trap, and reflux condenser. The reaction was stirred at 115 °C for 8 h, and water was collected as the bottom layer in the Dean-Stark trap. Residual heptane was removed from the reaction via rotary evaporation to

give a viscous mixture of oligomers. The crude oligomerized product was distilled over several hours under high vacuum at 170 – 190 °C into a receiving flask that had been cooled with a dry ice/acetone bath. An external trap was used to collect paraformaldehyde that accumulated during heating. This mixture of triethylene glycol and 3EO-MO was purified by a second fractional distillation at 100 – 120 °C under high vacuum. The clear, colorless product was dried over CaH₂ for three days, distilled, and degassed via three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. The product was obtained in 54% yield. This procedure is identical to that used in our prior report. ¹¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.62 (s, 2H), 3.67 (m, 8H), 3.53 (m, 8 H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 96.08, 70.52, 70.24, 67.70 ppm. HRMS (DART-MS): *m/z* calculated for C₇H₁₄O₄ [H]⁺ 163.0965, found 163.0962.

1,3,6-Trioxocane (2EO-MO)

Diethylene glycol (100 g, 0.94 mol, 1.0 equiv), paraformaldehyde (37 g, 1.2 mol, 1.3 equiv), polyphosphoric acid (4.0 g, 28 mmol, 0.030 equiv), and heptane (160 mL) were combined in a 250 mL flask with a magnetic stir bar and fitted with a Dean-Stark adapter and condenser. The reaction was stirred at 115 °C for 12 h and water was collected as the bottom layer in the trap. After cooling the reaction mixture to room temperature, heptane was removed via rotary evaporation to give a cloudy, viscous solution. This oligomerized product was distilled at 150 – 180 °C under high vacuum into a receiving flask cooled with a dry ice/acetone bath. The crude mixture of diethylene glycol and 2EO-MO was then fractionally distilled under high vacuum at 80 °C to give clear, colorless, 2EO-MO in 70% yield. The monomer was dried over CaH₂ for 3 days, distilled, and degassed via three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. This procedure is identical to that used in our prior report.¹ 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.57 (s, 2H), 3.50 (s, 8H) ppm. ¹³C

NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 97.91, 72.58, 70.61 ppm. **HRMS** (DART-MS): m/z calculated for $C_5H_{10}O_3$ [H]⁺ 119.0703, found 119.0703.

1,3,5-Trioxepane (EO-2MO)

A 250 mL round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar was charged with polyphosphoric acid (4.60 g, 32 mmol, 0.06 equiv), dioxolane (75 ml, 1.08 mol, 2.0 equiv), and paraformaldehyde (16.11 g, 0.54 mol, 1.0 equiv). The mixture was heated at 70 °C for 3 h followed by cooling to room temperature and allowing to stand for 3 h. The reaction mixture was then filtered and distilled by heating to 150 °C under static vacuum and cooling the receiving flask with a dry ice/acetone bath. The distillate comprising dioxolane and 1,3,5-trioxepane was collected and fractionally distilled under static vacuum, collecting the fraction with *b.p.* = 40 °C, which contained pure 1,3,5-trioxepane. The product was dried over CaH₂ for 24 hours, distilled, and degassed via three freeze-pump-thaw cycles prior to use. Typical yields were 20 – 30%. This procedure is identical to that used in our prior report. 11 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.84 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 4H), 3.74 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 4H) ppm. 13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 92.86, 69.87 ppm.

Sodium 2-trimethylsilylethoxide (NaOEtTMS)

In a glovebox under nitrogen atmosphere, sodium hydride (NaH, 90%; 1.2 g, 48 mmol, 0.95 equiv) was added to a 100 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar, which was then sealed with a rubber septum and removed from the glovebox. Under a positive flow of nitrogen vented to a mineral oil bubbler, diethyl ether (40 mL) was added to the reaction vessel. The solution was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath for 10 minutes and the N₂ flow was stopped. Immediately, 2-trimethylsilylethanol (6.0 g, 51 mmol,

1.0 equiv) was added dropwise via syringe to the stirring solution, which was vented into the mineral oil bubbler. After addition, the reaction was removed from the ice bath and stirred for 12 h overnight. Then, using Schlenk techniques, the slurry solution was transferred via cannula to an air-free fritted filter under vacuum to remove unreacted NaH. A clear brown liquid was collected in a 250 mL three-neck round bottom receiving flask. Acetonitrile (MeCN; 100 mL) was then added to the receiving flask to precipitate a white solid. The solution was placed in an ice bath and allowed to precipitate for 1 h to improve the yield. Then, this slurry solution was passed through another air-free fritted filter, which was subsequently sealed off. The white crystalline product was dried under high vacuum overnight to remove any residual solvent and obtained in 42% isolated yield. Pure product was stored in a glovebox under nitrogen atmosphere. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6): δ 3.52 (m, 2H), 0.77 (m, 2H), -0.03 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, C_6D_6): 24.35, 5.08, 1.26 ppm.

4. Polymer Synthesis

Poly(1,3,6,9,12-pentaoxacyclotetradecane) [P(4EO-MO)]

In a glovebox under nitrogen atmosphere, 4EO-MO (10 g, 48 mmol, 400 equiv), and CH_2Cl_2 (6.0 mL) were combined in a 100 mL round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, brought out of the glovebox, and cooled in an ice bath. Then, while stirring, trimethylsilyl triflate (22 μ L, 0.12 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added instantaneously through the septum using a gas tight syringe. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 7.5 h, during which the viscosity increased significantly. The reaction was quenched by instantaneously adding a solution of sodium 2-trimethylsilylethoxide (0.34 g, 2.4 mmol, 20 equiv) in toluene (2 mL) that had been previously prepared in the glovebox to the reaction mixture and mixing vigorously. The reaction mixture was

immediately precipitated into cold ether (1 L) to give a white powder. The product was dried under high vacuum overnight to remove residual solvent, then dried at 80 °C for 4 h to remove macrocyclic byproducts. The polymer was cooled to room temperature to give a viscous solid that crystallized over several days in 56% yield. This polymer sample is identical to that used in our prior report. $^{1}M_{\rm n} = 5.2$ kg/mol; $\rm D = 2.09$; $T_{\rm g} = -67$ °C; $T_{\rm m} = 27$, 31 °C; $T_{\rm d~(5\%)} = 338$ °C. 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\rm \delta$ 4.72 (d, 2H), 3.68 (m, 4H), 3.63 (m, 12H) ppm. 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 95.66, 70.67, 70.66, 70.56, 66.96 ppm.

Poly(1,3,6,9-tetraoxacycloundecane) [P(3EO-MO)]

In a glovebox under nitrogen atmosphere, 3EO-MO (8.0 g, 49 mmol, 200 equiv) and CH_2Cl_2 were combined in a 100 mL

round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, brought out of the glovebox, and cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath. Polymerization was initiated by the instantaneous addition of methyl triflate (28 μ L, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv) through the septum. After 30 minutes, the reaction began to turn slightly yellow and viscosity increased. After 2 h, the reaction was quenched by the instantaneous addition of a solution of sodium 2-trimethylsilylethoxide (0.18 g, 1.3 mmol, 5.0 equiv) in toluene (3.0 mL) that had been prepared previously in the glovebox and shaken vigorously to mix. The reaction was immediately precipitated into cold hexanes (1 L) to give a viscous, slightly opaque product. The polymer was triturated in hexanes, decanted, and dried on high vacuum overnight to remove residual solvent. Product was then dried at 80 °C for 4 h to remove macrocyclic byproducts. The polymer was cooled to room temperature to give a clear, colorless gel in 65% yield. This polymer sample is identical to that used in our prior report. $M_n = 13.6 \text{ kg/mol}$; D = 1.67; $T_g = -63 \text{ °C}$; $T_{d.(5\%)} = 266 \text{ °C}$

°C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.73 (s, 2H), 3.69 (m, 4H), 3.65 (m, 8H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 95.69, 70.68, 70.61, 66.99 ppm.

Poly(1,3,6-trioxocane) [P(2EO-MO)]

H \downarrow O \downarrow O \uparrow O \uparrow Si \uparrow In a gloveoux unus. In a gloveoux in a 50 mL round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, brought out of the glovebox, and cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath. To initiate the polymerization, trimethylsilyl triflate (140 µL, 0.76 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added instantaneously to the reaction mixture through the septum. After three minutes, the reaction gelled and turned slightly pink. After 5 minutes, a previously prepared sodium 2-trimethylsilylethoxide (0.21 g, 1.5 mmol, 2 equiv) solution was added to the reaction mixture instantaneously, and the flask was shaken vigorously. The reaction mixture was immediately precipitated into cold isopropanol (1 L) to yield a white powder. The product was isolated via filtration, rinsed with cold hexanes, dried on high vacuum overnight to remove residual solvent, then dried at 80 °C for 4 h to remove macrocyclic byproducts. After cooling to room temperature, white semi-crystalline product was obtained in 75% yield. This polymer sample is identical to that used in our prior report. $M_n = 20.6 \text{ kg/mol}$; D = 2.88; $T_g = -62$ °C; $T_{\rm m}$ = 38 °C; $T_{\rm d~(5\%)}$ = 341 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.74 (s, 2H), 3.69 (m, 8H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 95.73, 70.60, 67.02 ppm.

Poly(1,3-dioxolane) [P(EO-MO)]

In a glovebox under nitrogen atmosphere, 1,3-dioxolane (EO-MO) (10.0 g, 135 mmol, 300 equiv) was added to a

20 mL vial with a magnetic stir bar and was sealed with a cap with septum. The cap was secured with electrical tape and the vial was brought out of the glovebox and cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath. Then, methyl triflate (50 μL, 0.45 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added instantaneously through the septum. After 15 minutes, the reaction mixture gelled and turned slightly pink. The reaction was quenched by instantaneously adding a previously prepared solution of sodium 2-trimethylsilylethoxide (0.32 g, 23 mmol, 5.0 equiv) in toluene (2.0 mL) and shaking the reaction mixture vigorously. CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added to dilute the reaction mixture, which was then precipitated into cold diethyl ether (2 L) to give a white powdery solid. The solid was filtered and dried on high vacuum overnight to remove residual solvent, then dried at 80 °C for 4 h to remove cyclic byproducts. The pure white solid product was obtained in 70% yield. This polymer sample is identical to that used in our prior report. 1 $M_{\rm n}$ = 23.4 kg/mol; D = 2.12; D = -64 °C; D = 57 °C; D = 341 °C. D = 14 NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): D 4.74 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 4H) ppm. D = 13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 95.68, 66.96 ppm.

Poly(1,3,5-trioxepane) [P(EO-2MO)]

In a glovebox under nitrogen atmosphere, EO-2MO (7.7 g, 74 mmol, 400 equiv) and CH_2Cl_2 (18 mL) were combined in a 50 mL round bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, brought out of the glovebox, and cooled in an ice bath. Then, trimethylsilyl triflate (34 μ L, 0.18 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added using a gas tight syringe through the rubber septum. The reaction mixture gelled within seconds and was quenched after 3 minutes by the instantaneous addition of a solution of sodium 2-trimethylsilylethoxide (0.10 g, 0.74 mmol, 4 equiv) in toluene (3 mL), which had been previously prepared in the glovebox. The reaction mixture was diluted with

CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and immediately precipitated into 1 L of cold isopropanol to give a fibrous white solid. The solution was filtered, and the solid was dried under high vacuum overnight to remove residual solvent, then dried at 80 °C under high vacuum to remove macrocyclic byproducts and cooled to room temperature to give a white solid in 60% yield. This polymer sample is identical to that used in our prior report.¹ M_n = 24.9 kg/mol; D = 2.04; T_g = -66 °C; T_m = 28 °C; $T_{d (5\%)}$ = 366 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.80 (m, 2H), 4.74 (m, 1H), 3.71 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): 96.05, 92.9, 92.46, 89.61, 89.15, 88.71, 68.04, 67.44 ppm.

Table S1. Summary of physical properties of neat polyacetal polymers and PEO.

Polymer	<i>p</i> ([O]/[C])	M _n (kg/mol)	Đ	T _g (°C)	T_{m} (°C)	T _{d (5%)} (°C)
P(EO-2MO)	0.75	24.9	2.04	-66	28	366
P(EO-MO)	0.67	23.4	2.12	- 64	57	341
P(2EO-MO)	0.60	20.6	2.88	-62	38	341
P(3EO-MO)	0.57	13.6	1.67	- 63	_c	266
P(4EO-MO)	0.56	5.2	2.09	- 67	27, 31	338
PEO	0.50	5 ^a , 20 ^a	1.01 ^a , 1.01 ^a	- 60 ^b	67 ^b	_a

^aNot synthesized in the present study. ^bData from ref. ^{4,5}. ^c No melting transition observed.

5. Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC) of Neat Polyacetals

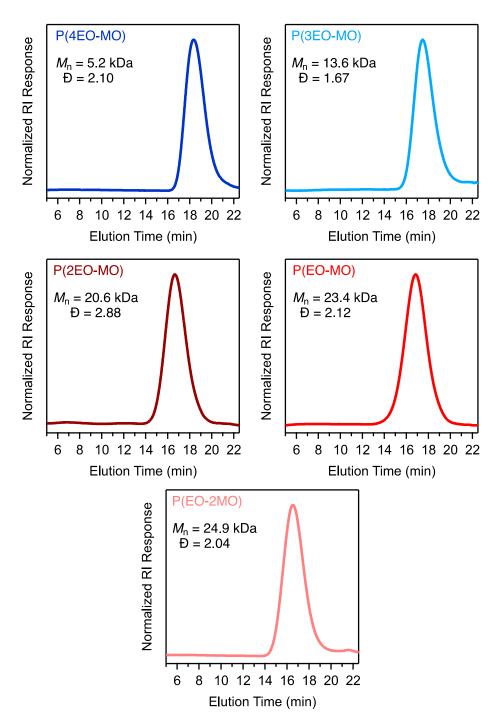


Figure S1. GPC traces of neat polyacetals showing monomodal distributions for all materials.

6. Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) of Neat Polyacetals

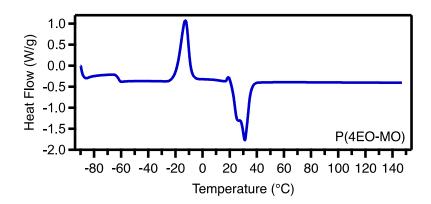


Figure S2. DSC trace from the second heating curve for P(4EO-MO). Data was taken at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. There is a strong endothermic crystallization peak during the second heating ramp, though no crystallization is observed during cooling. These samples were studied at temperatures well above the $T_{\rm m}$, so this crystallization behavior was not investigated further. $T_{\rm g} = -67$ °C; $T_{\rm m} = 27$, 31 °C.

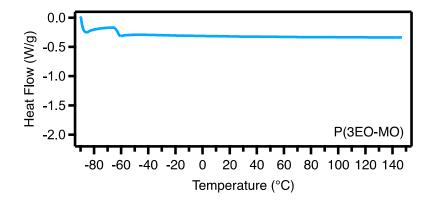


Figure S3. DSC trace from the second heating curve for P(3EO-MO). Data was taken at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. $T_{\rm g} = -63$ °C; no observed $T_{\rm m}$.

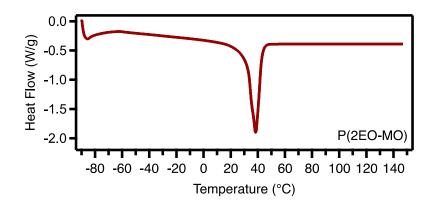


Figure S4. DSC trace from the second heating curve for P(2EO-MO). Data was taken at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. $T_g = -62$ °C; $T_m = 38$ °C.

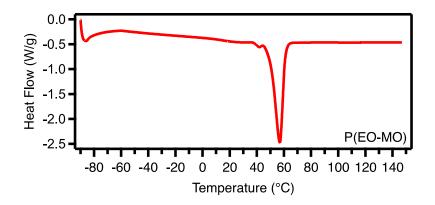


Figure S5. DSC trace from the second heating curve for P(EO-MO). Data was taken at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. $T_{\rm g}$ = -64 °C; $T_{\rm m}$ = 57 °C.

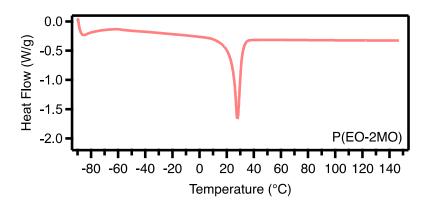


Figure S6. DSC trace from the second heating curve for P(EO-2MO). Data was taken at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. $T_{\rm g}$ = -66 °C; $T_{\rm m}$ = 28 °C.

7. Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) of Neat Polyacetals

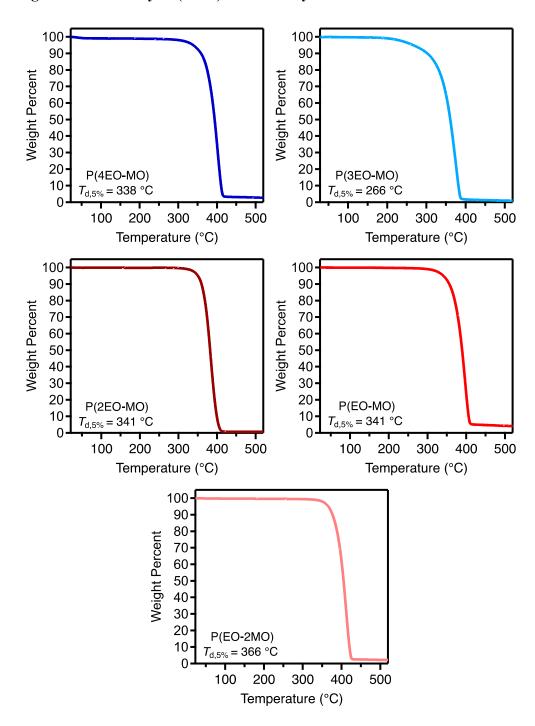
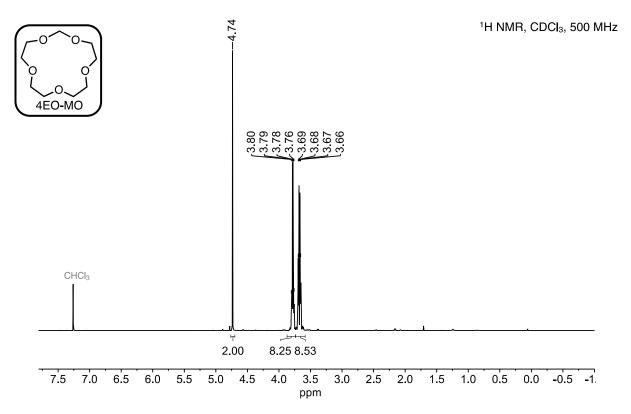
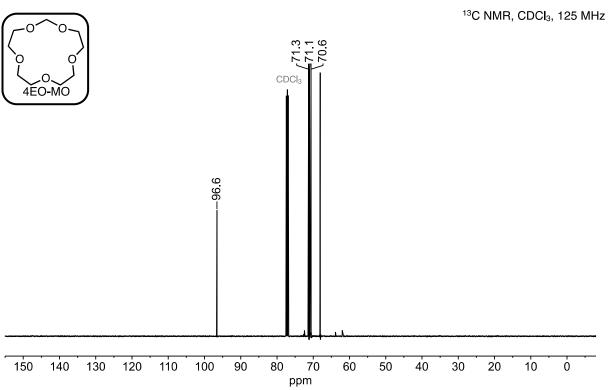
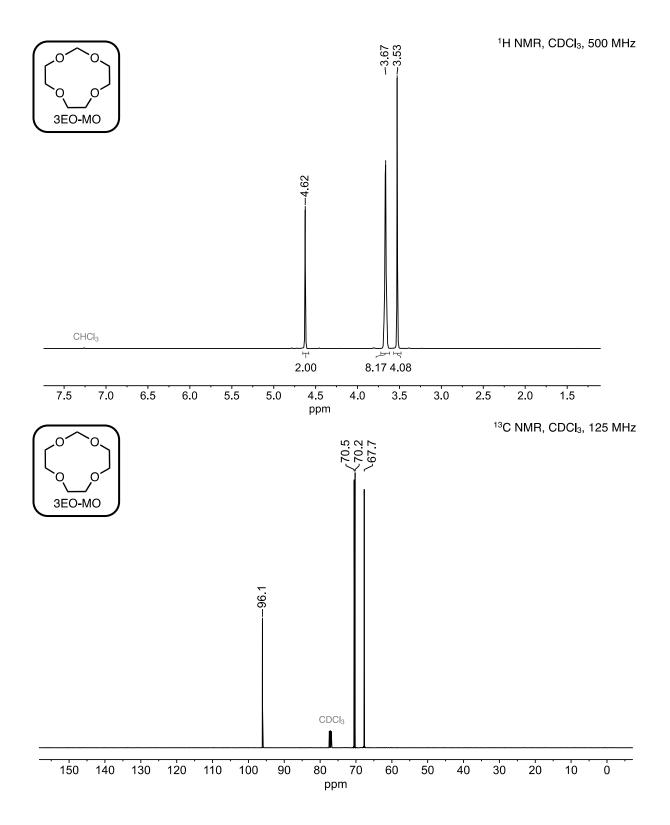


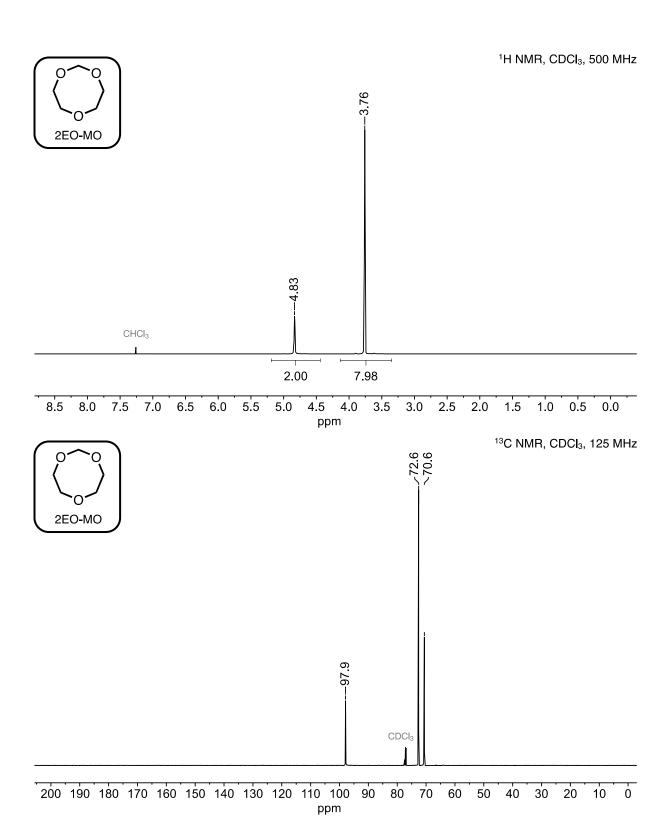
Figure S7. Thermogravimetric analyses of synthesized polyacetals. Most polymers were thermally stable to at least 338 °C. P(3EO-MO) reached 5% weight loss at 266 °C, likely due to the presence of some residual acid catalyst. As the observed degradation temperatures were well above the temperature of all subsequent experiments done in this study (90 °C) we did not repurify the samples as it would cause loss of yield.

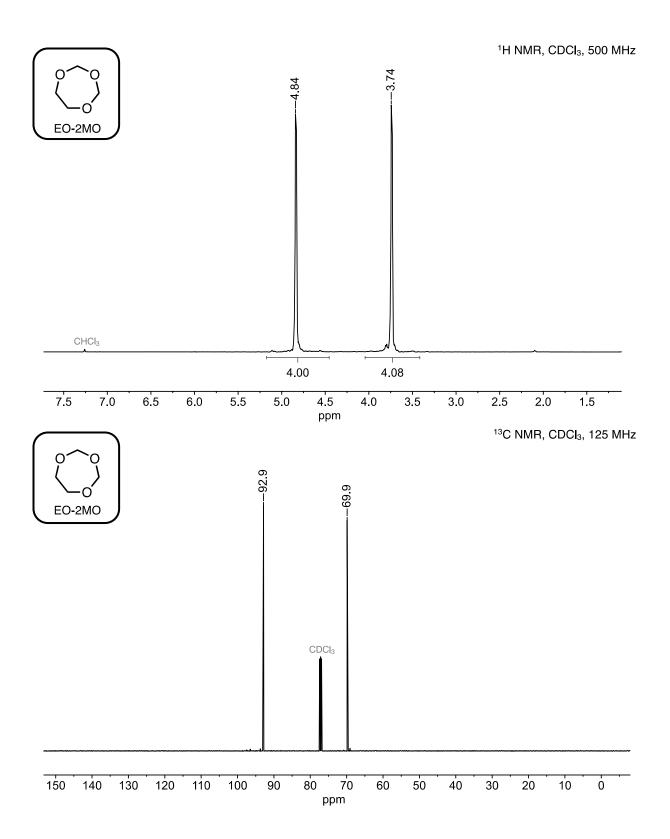
8. NMR Spectra of Monomers and Neat Polyacetals

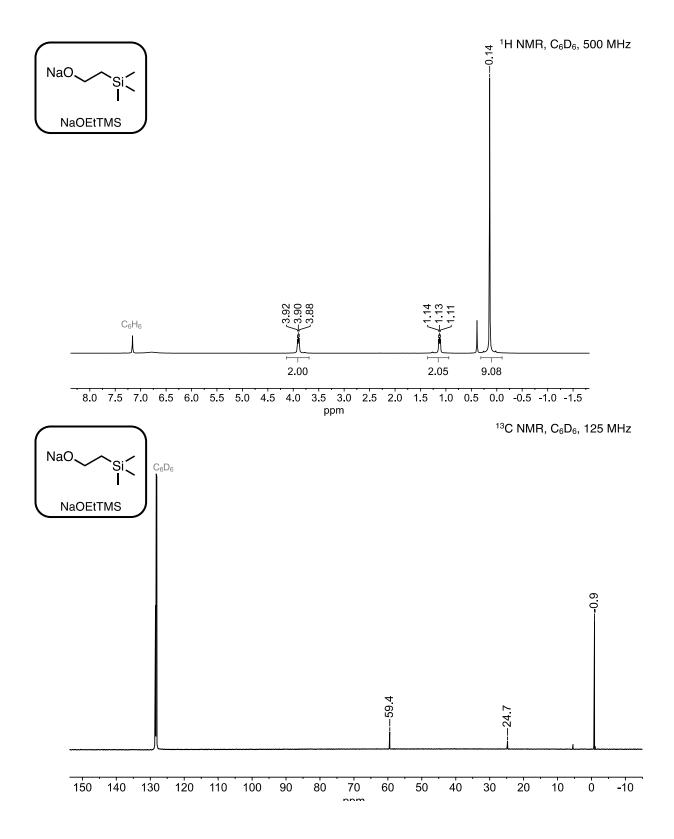


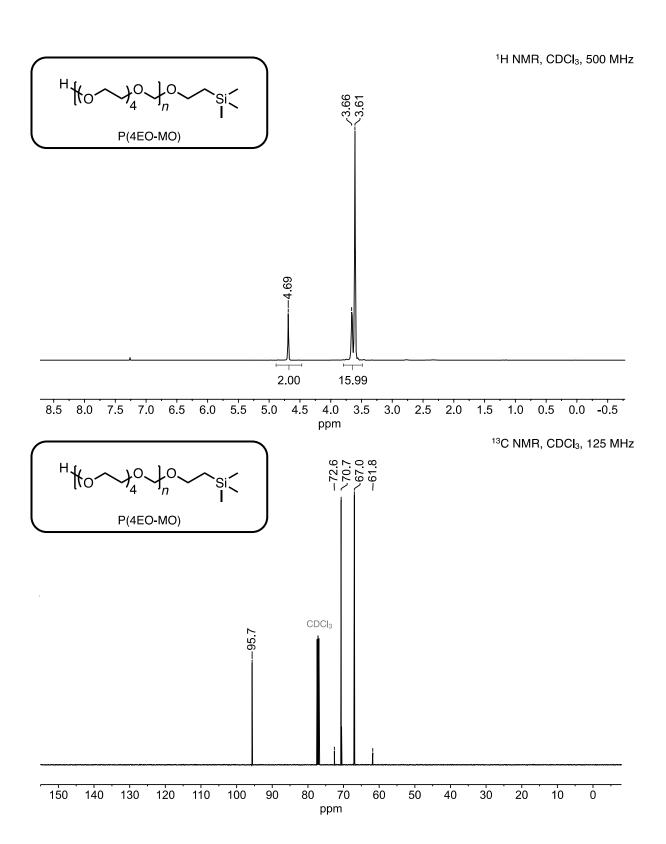


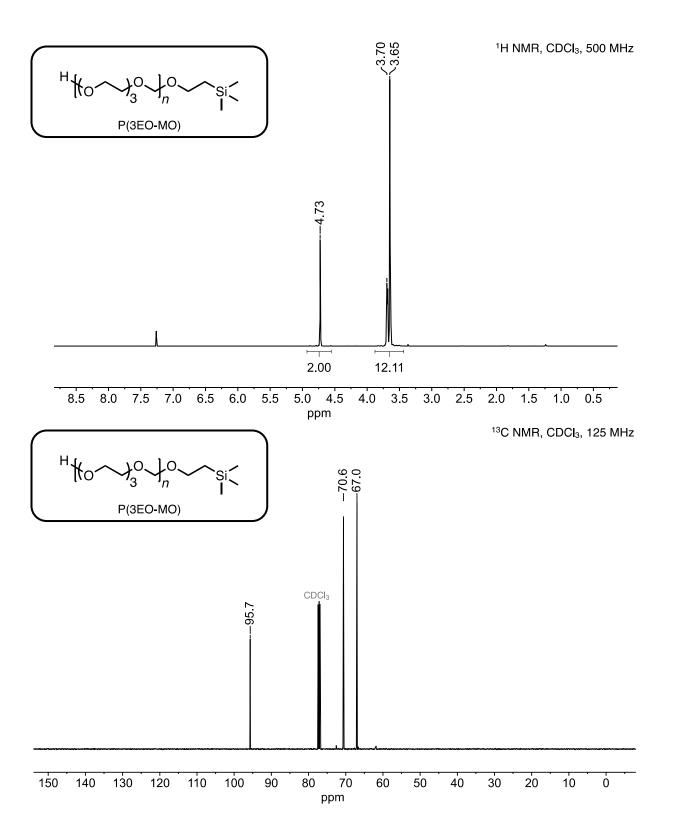


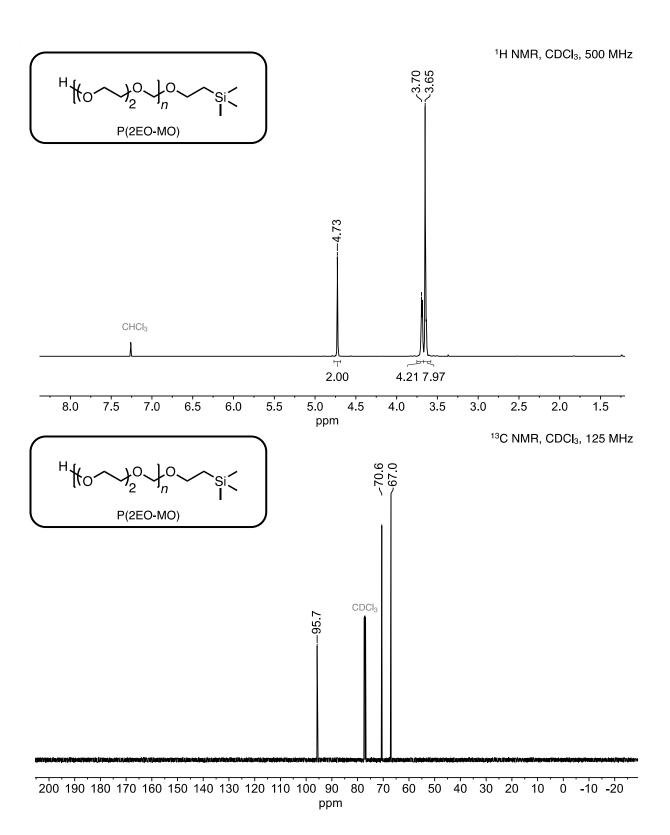


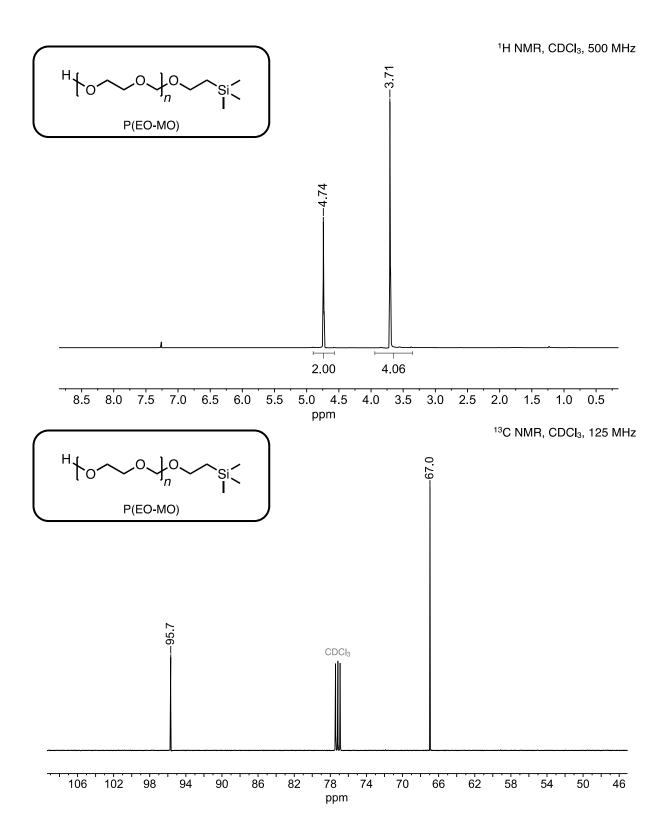


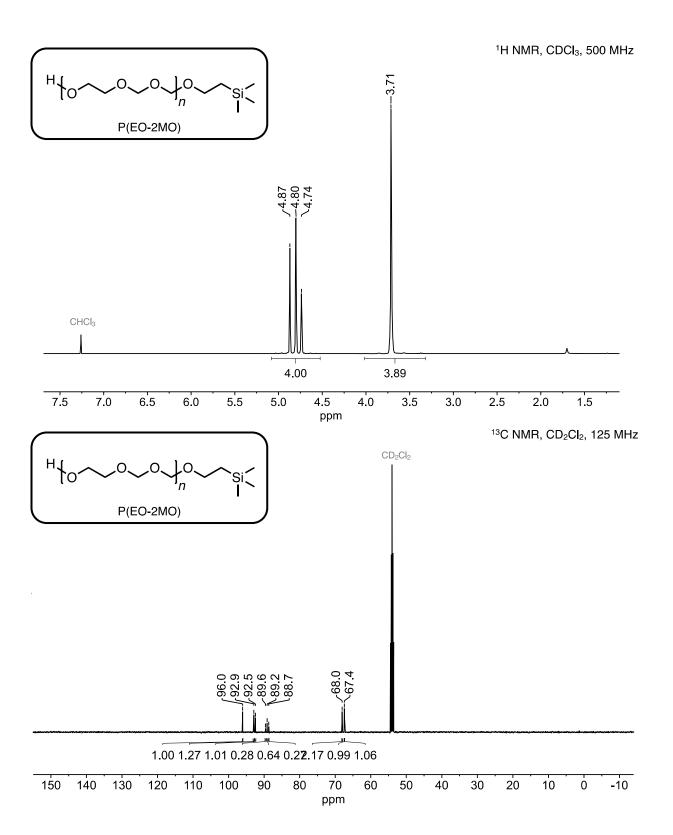




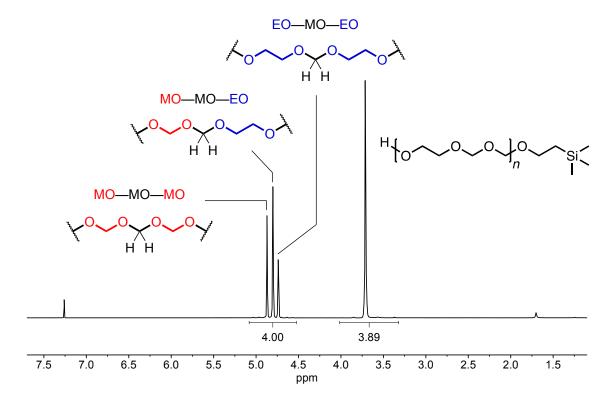




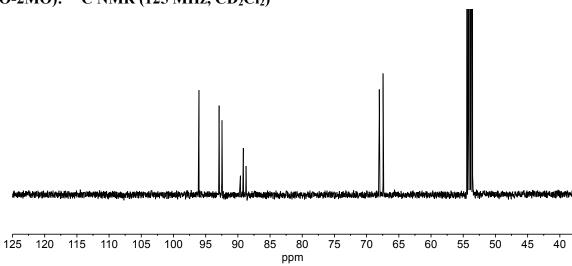




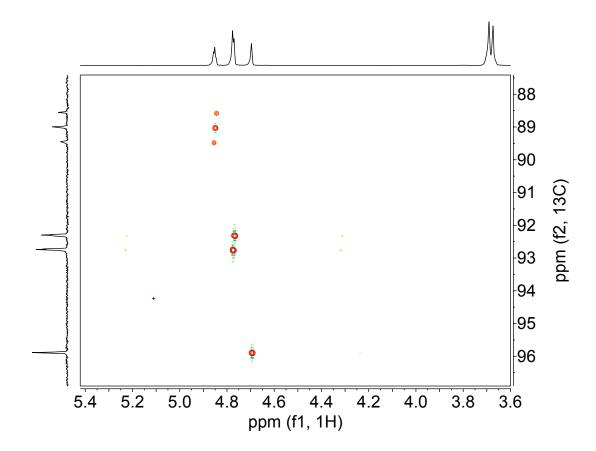
P(EO-2MO): ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)







P(EO-2MO): bsHSQCAD 2D NMR (500 MHz for ¹H, CD₂Cl₂)



9. Preparation and Characterization of Polymer Electrolytes

Electrolytes mixing lithium were prepared by the neat polymers with bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)imide (LiTFSI) salt. Sample handling and preparation was performed in an argon-filled glovebox with H₂O and O₂ levels maintained below 1 ppm. Following our group's standard laboratory protocol, 6 neat polymer samples were initially dried under vacuum at 90 °C for 24 h, and LiTFSI was dried at 120 °C for 48 h; both polymer and salt were then transferred into the glovebox under air-free conditions. The dry polymer and LiTFSI were mixed by dissolution into acetonitrile at 55 °C, followed by evaporation of the acetonitrile to give a homogeneous mixture of polymer and salt. Residual acetonitrile was removed by drying at 90 °C under active vacuum in the glovebox antechamber. DSC traces are flat and featureless during the first heat, suggesting complete solvent removal (Figure S9). Electrolytes were prepared at a range of salt concentrations. In this work, the concentration of LiTFSI salt dissolved in the polymer electrolyte is characterized by r, the ratio of Li⁺ cations to oxygen atoms (i.e., from both EO and MO units) on the polymer, according to r = [Li] / [O]; this definition is consistent with previous work on P(2EO-MO)-based polymer electrolytes.⁴ For each neat polymer, salt concentrations corresponding to r = 0.03, 0.05, 0.08, and 0.10 were prepared. Glass transition temperatures, $T_{\rm g}$, of the polymer electrolytes (at r = 0.08) were determined using DSC, and the resulting DSC curves are shown in Figure S8 and Figure S9.

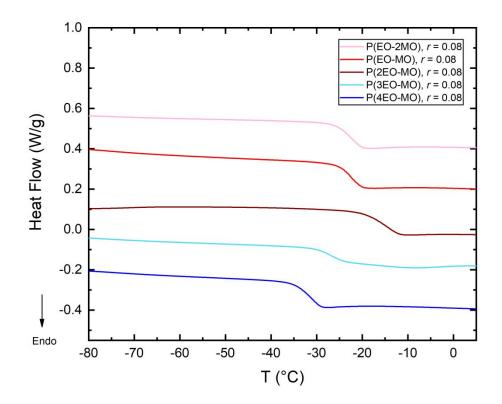


Figure S8. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) traces of the polyacetal electrolytes studied in this work at a salt concentration of r = [Li] / [O] = 0.08. Curves are vertically offset for clarity; DSC traces were recorded from the second heating cycle with a scan rate of 10 °C/min. Note the absence of melting transitions in any of the samples due to the disruption of crystallinity in the presence of salt.

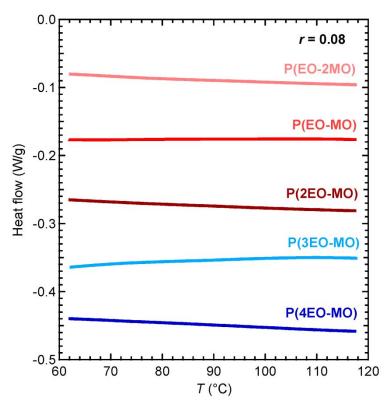


Figure S9. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) traces of the polyacetal electrolytes (r = [Li] / [O] = 0.08) during first heat cycle at higher temperature (60–120 °C) to demonstrate absence of residual solvent; curves are vertically offset for clarity.

10. Pulsed-field-gradient (PFG) NMR Instrumentation and Calibration

Prior to the PFG-NMR measurements, samples were loaded into 5 mm NMR tubes and sealed with air-tight caps within an argon-filled glovebox. All NMR experiments were performed at a field strength of 11.7 T using a 500 MHz Bruker Avance I spectrometer and a Bruker 5 mm double-resonance broadband observe (BBO) probe equipped with a z-axis gradient with a maximum gradient strength of ~0.5 T/m and variable-temperature control. For the polymer electrolyte samples, ⁷Li and ¹⁹F PFG-NMR measurements were performed at a sample temperature of 90 °C with Larmor frequencies of 194.4 MHz (7Li) and 470.7 MHz (19F); the resonances observed for both nuclei corresponded to Li⁺ cations and TFSI⁻ anions dissolved in the polymer, respectively. Calibrated $\pi/2$ rf pulse lengths of 7 μ s (7 Li) and 8 μ s (19 F) were used; typical recycle delays were 3 s (⁷Li) and 2 s (¹⁹F). Samples were subject to an initial equilibration and relaxation period of 20 – 30 min after heating to the sample temperature (90 °C).

For determination of self-diffusion coefficients by PFG, the 13-interval stimulated-echo sequence using bipolar, sine-bell magnetic field gradient pulses was employed.⁷ The 13-interval pulse sequence with relevant timings (and definitions of δ and Δ) is depicted in Figure S10. Typical values of the gradient pulse length (δ), diffusion time (Δ), and maximum gradient strength (g)

were 10 - 20 ms, 0.8 - 1.8 s, and 0.23 T/m, respectively, for 7 Li; and 4 - 8 ms, 0.3 - 0.8 s, and 0.33 T/m, respectively, for 19 F. In the PFG experiments, the gradient strength was varied, and all other parameters were held constant to ensure intensity changes were solely due to diffusion and not relaxation effects. To obtain self-diffusion coefficients, the integrated signal intensity (I) as a function of gradient strength was fit to the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation applicable for the 13-interval sequence using sine-bell gradient pulses: 7,8

$$I = I_0 \exp\left[-D\left(2\delta g\gamma\right)^2 \left(\Delta - \frac{\delta}{8} + \frac{3\tau}{2}\right)\right]$$
 (S1)

where γ is the nuclear gyromagnetic ratio, I_0 is the signal intensity at zero gradient strength, τ is the interpulse delay (see Figure S10), and D is the self-diffusion coefficient. Further information about the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation used in this work, including the derivation of the corrected diffusion time $\Delta' = \Delta - \frac{\delta}{8} + \frac{3\tau}{2}$ (Eq. (S5)), is given below. Typical fits to the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation are shown in Figure S11. The diffusion times (Δ) used in this work were long (typically at least 500 ms for 7 Li and at least 200 ms for 19 F) due to hardware limitations on the maximum applied values of gradient strength and length. Where possible, measurements were repeated at shorter Δ values (with less attenuation consequently observed, and therefore a less

satisfactory fit to the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation); the self-diffusion coefficients thus determined did not vary significantly within error (Figure S12).

The sample temperature was externally calibrated by measuring the previously reported temperature-dependent difference of the ¹H chemical shifts of the –CH₂– and –OH resonances of dry ethylene glycol,⁹ and gradient strengths were similarly calibrated with the aforementioned PFG-NMR sequence, using the known self-diffusion coefficient of ethylene glycol at the calibrated temperature.¹⁰ Data were acquired, processed and analyzed using Bruker TopSpin 2.1 and/or 3.6.

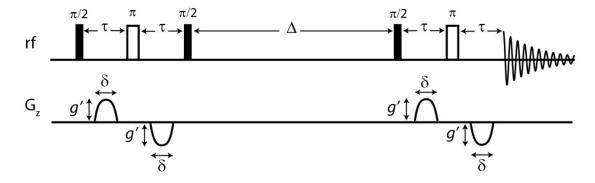


Figure S10. Depiction of the 13-interval stimulated-echo PFG sequence with bipolar magnetic field gradients⁷ used for measurement of self-diffusion coefficients.

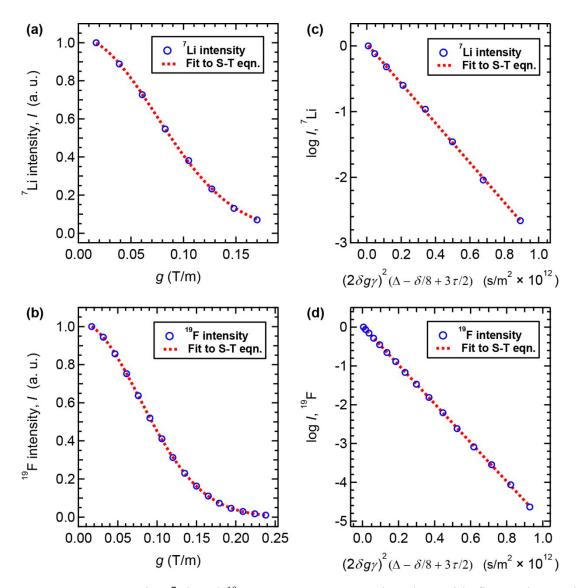


Figure S11. Representative ⁷Li and ¹⁹F PFG-NMR attenuation data with fits to the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation as measured for P(EO-2MO) with r = 0.10. (a) ⁷Li and (b) ¹⁹F integrated signal intensity (of the resonances corresponding to Li⁺ cations and TFSI⁻ anions, respectively) plotted against gradient strength, g; the same (c) ⁷Li and (d) ¹⁹F signal intensity data, plotted as the natural logarithm of the intensity vs. the quantity $(2\delta g\gamma)^2 (\Delta - \frac{\delta}{8} + \frac{3\tau}{2})$, giving a linear relationship with slope -D. (Here log denotes the natural logarithm.)

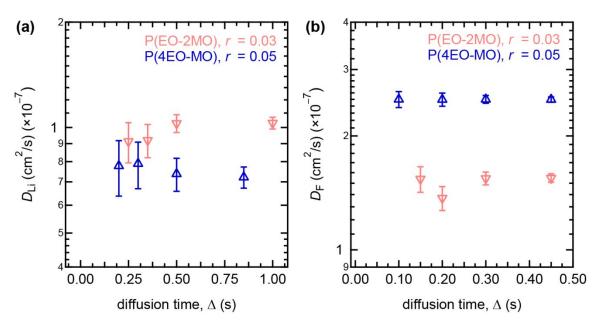


Figure S12. Measured (a) 7 Li and (b) 19 F self-diffusion coefficients as a function of diffusion time Δ obtained from the PFG-NMR experiments performed for two representative polymer electrolyte samples: P(EO-2MO), r = 0.03 and P(4EO-MO), r = 0.05.

11. Further PFG-NMR Details: Parameter Definitions and Additional Experiments

Figure S10 shows the 13-interval pulse sequence used in the present work. The maximum gradient strength (g) represents the largest strength used, *i.e.*, the maximum height of the shaped gradient pulse. The actual gradient strength (g) is equal to the value of g'scaled by a shape factor proportional to the area of the shape, e.g., the shape factor is 1 for a rectangular pulse and $2/\pi$ for a sine-bell pulse. In the present work, the timing parameters (δ , Δ , and τ) are fixed and only the gradient strength (g) is allowed to vary such that the observed signal intensity is not influenced by relaxation effects.

Note that the definitions of δ , Δ , and τ in this work are in agreement with those used previously⁷ but are distinct from the so-called "conventional" definition given by others.^{8,11} The "conventional" parameters (here denoted with subscripts as δ_c , Δ_c , and τ_c) can be written in terms of the quantities used in this work:

$$\delta_c = 2\delta$$
 (S2)

$$\Delta_{\rm c} = \Delta + 2\tau \tag{S3}$$

$$\tau_{\rm c} = \tau - \delta \tag{S4}$$

For this sequence using sine-bell gradient pulses, the correction factor Δ' appearing in the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation is given by⁸

$$\Delta' = \Delta_{\rm c} - \frac{5\delta_{\rm c}}{16} - \frac{\tau_{\rm c}}{2},\tag{S5}$$

which we can rewrite using Eq. (S2) - (S4) to give

$$\Delta' = \Delta - \frac{\delta}{8} + \frac{3\tau}{2},\tag{S6}$$

which is the factor used in the Stejskal-Tanner equation given above (Eq. (S1)).

Representative fits of the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation to ${}^{7}\text{Li}$ and ${}^{19}\text{F}$ PFG attenuation data using the correction factor of Eq. (S6) are shown in Figure S11. Here, ${}^{7}\text{Li}$ and ${}^{19}\text{F}$ PFG measurements were carried out on the P(EO-2MO), r = 0.10 polymer electrolyte sample. In Figure S11a and c, the integrated intensity (*I*) data are plotted *vs.* the gradient strength (*g*; T/m) and show the expected Gaussian dependence. In Figure S11b and d, the same data have been plotted as log *I* (i.e., the natural logarithm of *I*) against the quantity $(2\delta g\gamma)^2$ ($\Delta - \frac{\delta}{8} + \frac{3\tau}{2}$), giving a linear relationship with slope equal to -D where *D* is the ${}^{7}\text{Li}$ or ${}^{19}\text{F}$ self-diffusion coefficient.

For select samples, PFG measurements were repeated at multiple diffusion times (*i.e.*, differing values of Δ) to check for effects of restricted diffusion or other dependence on the relatively long choice of Δ employed for most measurements in this work. Representative measured ⁷Li and ¹⁹F diffusion coefficients are shown in Figure S12. No significant dependence on the choice of Δ was observed within the error of the measurements.

To demonstrate the internal consistency and reliability of the measurements, ^7Li PFG experiments were again performed under similar conditions for a select sample (P(EO-MO), r = 0.08) after a period of \sim 14 months. Although a different range of gradient strengths was chosen, the sample was subject to the same equilibration and relaxation period as previously described and the other experimental conditions were equivalent to the prior experiment. Plotting the old and new data together (**Figure S13**), a \sim 2% difference in the extracted D values (within error of the fits) is observed.

Finally, all of the fits of the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation to the ⁷Li and ¹⁹F PFG data for all samples studied (for a total of 40 experiments) are depicted in **Figure S14**.

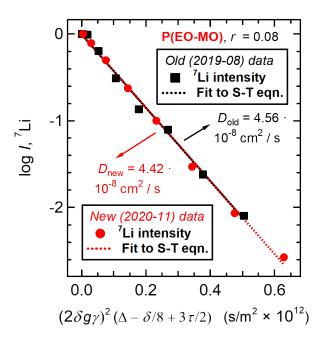
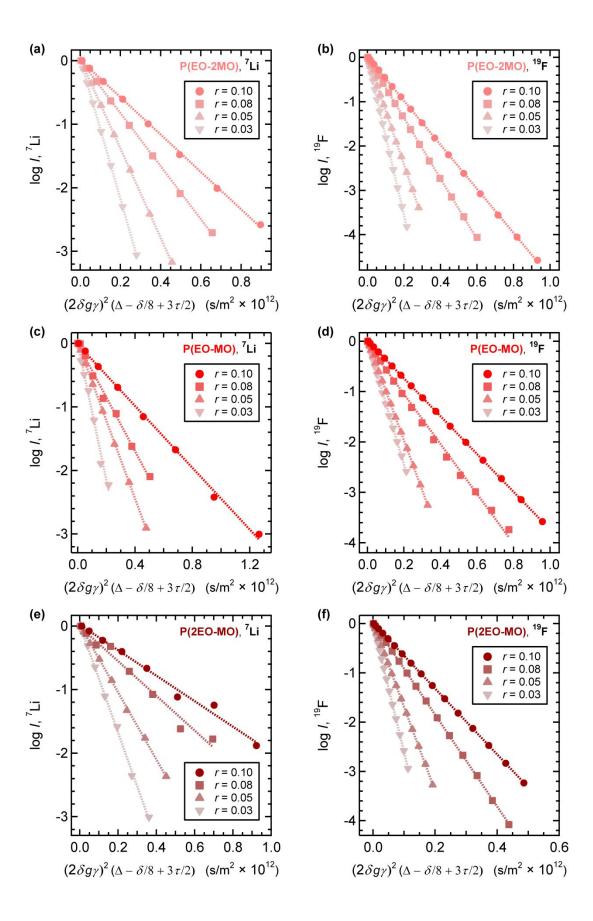


Figure S13. Comparison of previous (black) and more recent (red) 7 Li PFG attenuation data, including fits to the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation, for the P(EO-MO), r = 0.08 sample. Other than differences in the gradient strength and lengths selected, the measurements were performed under equivalent conditions; the extracted D coefficients are within $\sim 2\%$ of each other. (Here log denotes the natural logarithm.)



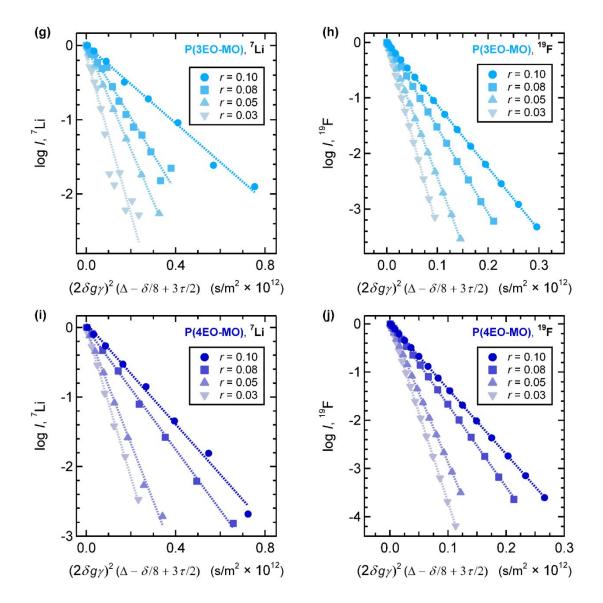


Figure S14. Depiction of all raw ⁷Li and ¹⁹F PFG attenuation data acquired across all samples studied, with fits to the modified Stejskal-Tanner equation shown as straight lines: **(a)** P(EO-2MO), ⁷Li; **(b)** P(EO-2MO), ¹⁹F; **(c)** P(EO-MO), ⁷Li; **(d)** P(EO-MO), ¹⁹F; **(e)** P(2EO-MO), ⁷Li; **(f)** P(2EO-MO), ¹⁹F; **(g)** P(3EO-MO), ⁷Li; **(h)** P(3EO-MO), ¹⁹F; **(i)** P(4EO-MO), ⁷Li; **(j)** P(4EO-MO), ¹⁹F.

12. Additional PFG Figures and Tables

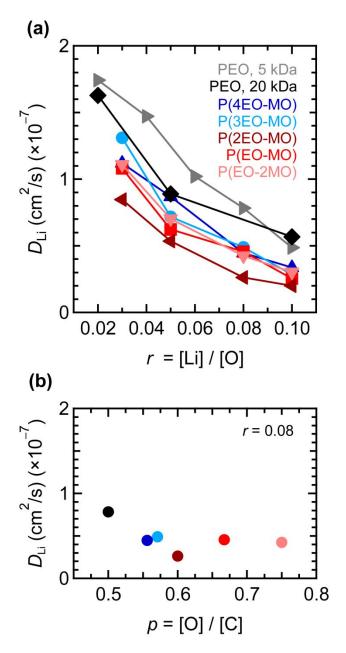


Figure S15. Li⁺ (7 Li) PFG-NMR self-diffusion coefficients at 90 °C shown with a magnified scale to more clearly highlight the relative change (a) over the range of salt concentrations (r = [Li] / [O]) for all compositions and (b) over the range of polyacetal compositions (p = [O] / [C]) at r = 0.08.

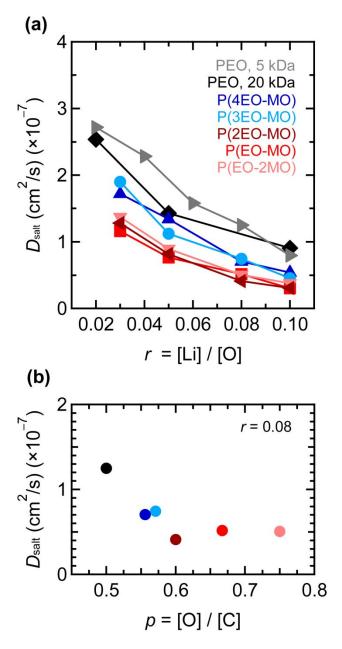


Figure S16. Effective salt diffusion coefficients (D_{salt}) that have been derived from the Nernst-Hartley equation, (a) as a function of salt concentration (r = [Li] / [O]) across the polyacetal composition range and (b) as a function of polyacetal composition (p = [O] / [C]) at a salt concentration of r = 0.08.

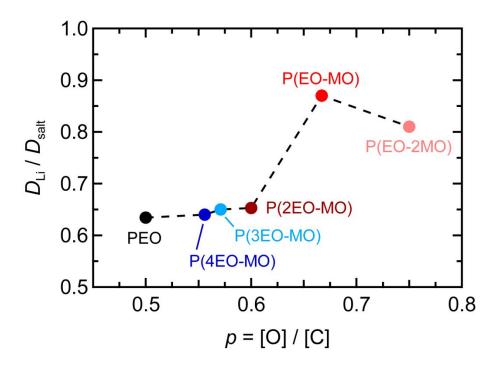


Figure S17. Ratio of diffusion coefficients, $D_{\rm Li}/D_{\rm salt}$, showing greater relative Li⁺ diffusivity as p increases, reaching a plateau with P(EO-MO) and P(EO-2MO). Diffusion coefficients were measured at 90 °C and averaged across all studied salt concentrations. Values for PEO ($M_{\rm n}=5~{\rm kDa}$) have been calculated using self-diffusion coefficients from the prior literature. The dashed line is included as a visual guide.

Table S2. Weight percent LiTFSI loaded into a polymer at a given r value for the polymers under study. Note that the values of r tabulated for PEO differ from those for the polyacetals and are chosen to correspond to the prior literature data for PEO depicted in Figure 1.

Polymer	r= 0.01	r= 0.03	r=0.05		r=0.08	r= 0.10
P(EO-2MO) [wt% LiTFSI]	7.65	19.9	29.3		39.9	45.3
P(EO-MO) [wt% LiTFSI]	7.20	18.9	28.0		38.3	43.7
P(2EO-MO) [wt% LiTFSI]	6.93	17.9	27.1		37.1	42.1
P(3EO-MO) [wt% LiTFSI]	6.62	17.5	26.2		36.2	41.5
P(4EO-MO) [wt% LiTFSI]	6.51	17.3	25.8		35.8	41.1
	r = 0.02	r = 0.04	r = 0.05	r = 0.06	r = 0.08	r = 0.10
PEO [wt% LiTFSI]	11.5	20.7	24.6	28.1	34.3	39.5

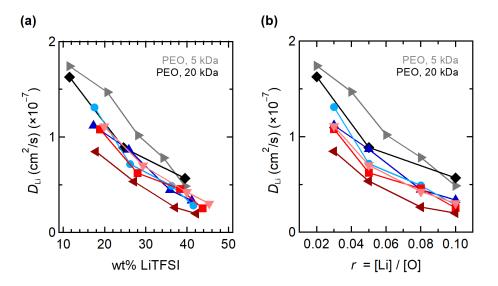


Figure S18. Comparison of D_{Li} versus (a) wt% LiTFSI and (b) r = [Li] / [O]. Although the data shift slightly when plotted against weight percent LiTFSI, identical trends in cationic diffusivity are observed in both cases. We opted to tailor our discussion around r values to normalize our systems to the number of available Lewis basic oxygen binding groups.

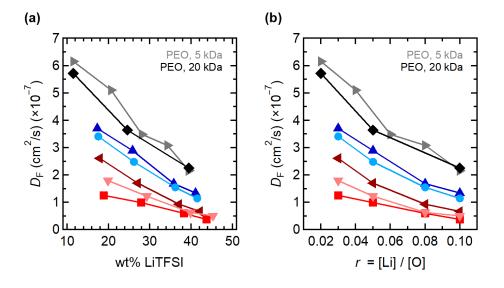


Figure S19. Comparison of D_F versus (a) wt% LiTFSI and (b) r = [Li] / [O]. Although the data shift slightly when plotted against weight percent LiTFSI, identical trends in anionic diffusivity are observed in both cases. We opted to tailor our discussion around r values to normalize the systems to the number of available Lewis basic oxygen binding groups.

Table S3. 7 Li (cation) self-diffusion coefficients at 90 $^{\circ}$ C as a function of r value for the polymers under study, corresponding to the values depicted in Figure 1. Note that the values of r tabulated for PEO differ from those for the polyacetals and are chosen to correspond to the prior literature data for PEO, as depicted in Figure 1.

Polymer	r = 0.03	r = 0.05	r = 0.08	r = 0.10
$P(EO-2MO) [\times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}]$	1.11	0.702	0.424	0.303
$P(EO-MO) [\times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}]$	1.08	0.623	0.456	0.254
$P(2EO-MO) [\times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}]$	0.847	0.535	0.263	0.200
$P(3EO-MO) [\times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}]$	1.31	0.718	0.489	0.285
$P(4EO-MO) [\times 10^{-7} cm^2/s]$	1.12	0.868	0.446	0.337

Table S4. 19 F (anion) self-diffusion coefficients at 90 $^{\circ}$ C as a function of r value for the polymers under study, corresponding to the values depicted in Figure 1.

Polymer	r = 0.03	r = 0.05	r = 0.08	r = 0.10
$P(EO-2MO) [\times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}]$	1.79	1.22	0.626	0.501
$P(EO-MO) [\times 10^{-7} cm^2/s]$	1.25	0.987	0.593	0.376
$P(2EO-MO) [\times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}]$	2.61	1.70	0.929	0.666
$P(3EO-MO) [\times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}]$	3.41	2.48	1.55	1.14
$P(4EO-MO) [\times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}]$	3.70	2.89	1.68	1.34

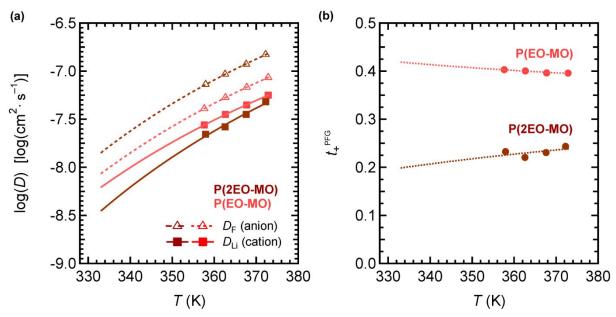


Figure S20. (a) Variable-temperature self-diffusion coefficients for anions (open triangles and dashed lines) and cations (closed squares and solid lines) for the P(2EO-MO) and P(EO-MO) electrolytes at r = 0.08, measured by ¹⁹F and ⁷Li PFG at a range of temperatures between 358 K and 373 K. The fitted lines make use of the Vogel-Fulcher-Tammann (VTF) equation using the experimentally determined T_g values of the samples and have been extrapolated to 333 K. (b) PFG-based cationic transference numbers, $t_+^{\rm PFG}$, for P(EO-MO) and P(2EO-MO), calculated from the variable-temperature diffusivity data, including the VTF fits extrapolated to 333 K (dotted lines).

Table S5. Tabulated values of current fraction at $r = 0.08^{\circ}$ and $t_{+,PFG}$ values averaged across all salt concentrations.

polymer	p = [O]/[C]	$\rho_+ (r = 0.08)$	$t_{+,}^{PFG}$ (averaged [LiTFSI])
PEO	0.50	0.08	0.21
P(4EO-MO)	0.56	0.10	0.22
P(3EO-MO)	0.57	0.13	0.24
P(2EO-MO)	0.60	0.19	0.23
P(EO-MO)	0.67	0.43	0.42
P(EO-2MO)	0.75	0.45	0.38

13. Molecular Dynamics (MD) Simulations

Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations were performed with a force field that uses the GAFF functional form¹² (Eq. (S7)) to describe the inter- and intramolecular interactions with parameters that were modified to correctly predict the bond lengths, bond angles, dihedral angles, and density:

$$E_{pair} = \sum_{bonds} k_r (r - r_{eq})^2 + \sum_{bonds} k_{\theta} (\theta - \theta_{eq})^2 + \sum_{dihedrals} k_n [1 + \cos(n\phi - \gamma)] + \sum_{i < j} \left[\frac{A_{ij}}{R_{ij}^{12}} - \frac{B_{ij}}{R_{ij}^{6}} + \frac{q_i q_j}{\varepsilon R_{ij}} \right]$$
 (S7)

where k_r k_θ , and k_n are force constants, $r_{\rm eq}$ and $\theta_{\rm eq}$ are equilibrium bond length and bond angle, respectively, n is the multiplicity, γ is the phase angle for torsional angle parameters, A and B parameters characterize a Lennard-Jones non-bonded interaction, and q is the partial charge on the atoms calculated using the prescribed restrained electrostatic potential (RESP) model. ^{12,13} Partial charges on the ions were scaled by 0.8 based on ab-initio results and previous literature ^{14,15} to emulate polarization effects. The Coulombic interactions were cut off at 14 Å while Lennard-Jones interactions were cut off at 13 Å with geometric mixing rules applied to all pairs where $i \neq j$. All MD simulations were performed using the Large-scale Atomic/Molecular Massively Parallel Simulator (LAMMPS) software package ¹⁶ using a timestep of 1 fs.

Structures for MD simulations were created using a multistep annealing process as described below. First, a single strand of the polymer chain was created with a chain length of about 20 monomer units. 30 such chains along with a requisite amount of Li⁺ and TFSI⁻ ions for the specific composition were placed randomly in a box at a very low density (~0.15–0.25 g/cm³) – much lower than the experimental density – to avoid any overlap. The system was first heated to 900 K, relaxed for about 100 ps at the high temperature and then brought back down to 300 K in the NVT ensemble (where NVT implies a constant number of particles (N), volume (V), and temperature (T)) at a nominal cooling rate of 3 K/ps followed by a relaxation at room temperature allowing the density to change in the NPT ensemble (where NPT implies constant number of particles (N),

pressure (P), and temperature (T)) for 50 ps. This entire annealing cycle was repeated about 20 times until the density at room temperature started to saturate with annealing cycles close to the experimental density. The resulting samples were then heated to 363 K and relaxed for 10 ns in the NVT ensemble for further structural analysis.

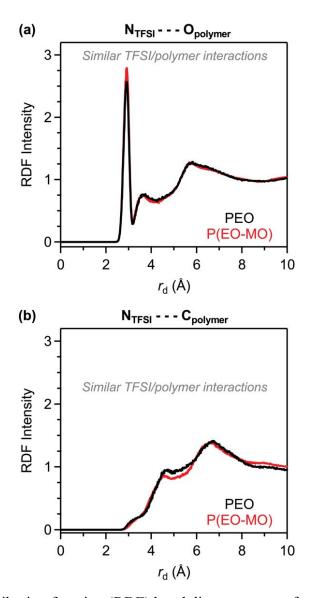


Figure S21. Radial distribution function (RDF) bond distance curves from molecular dynamics simulations representing interactions between TFSI⁻ species (i.e., central nitrogen atoms) and (a) oxygens in the polymer or (b) carbons in the polymer in PEO (black) and P(EO-MO) (red). No significant changes in anion–polymer interactions were observed comparing the two systems.

14. Raman Spectroscopy of Polymer Electrolytes

Raman spectra were obtained using a WITec alpha300 S confocal microscope coupled with a UHTS-300 CCD detector. A Nikon E Plan objective lens with 20× magnification and numerical aperture of 0.4 was used to focus a fiber-coupled 532 nm laser onto the sample to stimulate Raman scattering. Samples were contained in an air-free sample holder consisting of a stainless steel ConFlat flange and viewport with 2.16 mm thick fused silica glass window sealed with a copper gasket. The sample temperature (90 °C) was maintained using a custom-built copper heating block and PID controller. Light from the sample was collected through the objective lens and passed through a longpass fluorescence filter to remove non-scattered and Rayleigh-scattered light and focused onto a pinhole at the entrance of an optical fiber leading to the spectrometer. A grating of 1800 grooves/mm was used with the spectral center set to 835 cm⁻¹. The spectra reported herein were obtained by averaging 50 spectra taken with an integration time of 0.51 s. A background subtraction was performed on the raw spectra using the method described by Lieber and Mahadevan-Jansen in order to eliminate the fluorescence signal. ¹⁷ Spectra recorded across the full frequency range are depicted in Figure S22. Additionally, in order to probe any temperaturedependent ion clustering effects, spectra of P(EO-MO) and P(2EO-MO) were also recorded at 60 °C as shown in Figure S23; the position of the TFSI⁻ expansion–contraction mode appeared to be independent of temperature in these samples.

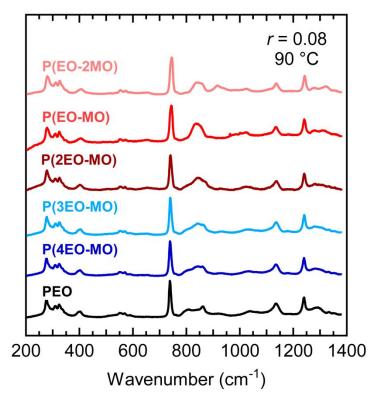


Figure S22. Raman spectra of PEO and the polyacetal electrolytes at r = 0.08, recorded at 90 °C. Note: P(2EO-MO) used for this spectrum was a sample with $M_n = 55$ kDa.

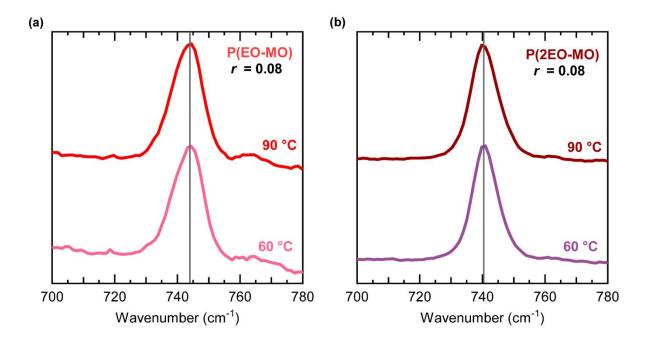


Figure S23. Raman spectra of (a) P(EO-MO) and (b) P(2EO-MO) electrolytes (both r = 0.08), focusing on the TFSI⁻ expansion—contraction mode, recorded at both 60 °C and 90 °C. The vertical grey line indicates the position of the maximum of this mode, which is temperature-independent for both samples.

15. Abbreviations

EO ethylene oxide
EO-MO 1,3-dioxolane
EO-2MO 1,3,5-trioxepane
2EO-MO 1,3,6-trioxocane

3EO-MO 1,3,6,9-tetraoxacycloundecane

4EO-MO 1,3,6,9,12-pentaoxacyclotetradecane

LiTFSI lithium bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)imide

MeOTf methyltriflate MO methylene oxide

NaOEtTMS sodium 2-trimethylsilylethoxide

PEO poly(ethylene oxide)
P(EO-MO) poly(1,3-dioxolane)
P(EO-2MO) poly(1,3,5-trioxepane)
P(2EO-MO) poly(1,3,6-trioxocane)

P(3EO-MO) poly(1,3,6,9-tetraoxacycloundecane)

P(4EO-MO) poly(1,3,6,9,12-pentaoxacyclotetradecane)

TMSOTf trimethylsilyltriflate

CROP cationic ring-opening polymerization
DSC differential scanning calorimetry
GAFF general AMBER force field
GPC gel permeation chromatography

LAMMPS Large-scale Atomic/Molecular Massively Parallel Simulator

MD molecular dynamics

NMR nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy

PFG-NMR pulsed-field-gradient NMR
RDF radial distribution function
RESP restrained electrostatic potential

rf radio frequency

 $D_{\rm F}$ ¹⁹F (anion) self-diffusion coefficient (cm²/s) $D_{\rm Li}$ ⁷Li (cation) self-diffusion coefficient (cm²/s) $D_{\rm salt}$ effective salt diffusion coefficient (cm²/s)

Đ polydispersity index

g gradient pulse strength (T/m)

I integrated NMR signal intensity (arb. units)

 I_0 integrated NMR signal intensity at zero gradient strength (arb. units)

 $M_{\rm n}$ number-averaged molecular weight (kg/mol)

ratio of oxygen atoms to carbon atoms on the polymer
 moles of Li⁺ per mole of oxygen atoms on the polymer

 $r_{\rm d}$ radial distance between atoms (Å)

T temperature (°C)

 $T_{\rm d,5\%}$ decomposition (5% weight loss) temperature (°C)

 $T_{\rm g}$ glass transition temperature (°C)

 $T_{\rm m}$ melting temperature (°C)

 Δ diffusion time (s)

 δ gradient pulse length (s)

γ nuclear gyromagnetic ratio (MHz/T)

 τ interpulse delay (s)

16. References

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