



**MAKE YOUR**

**VOTE COUNT**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF MAINE EDUCATION FUND

# MORE INFORMATION

**How do I find my city or town clerk?** You can find the address and phone number for your city or town clerk at: [maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.html](http://maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.html)

**You can also contact:**

- ☑ Office of the Secretary of State  
Division of Elections  
101 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0101
- ☎ (207) 624-7650
- @ [cec.elections@maine.gov](mailto:cec.elections@maine.gov)
- 🔗 [maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/index.html](http://maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/index.html)



If you want to feel informed and confident when you vote, check out your personalized voting information on

🔗 [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org). It's quick and easy:

- See what's on your ballot
- Check your voter registration
- Find your polling place
- See where candidates stand on the issues
- And much more!



Use your phone to scan the QR code to visit [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).



# WHY VOTE?

**Why vote?** You can help make important changes in the way your town, state, and country are governed.

**Is my vote private?** Yes, your vote is private. No one will know how you vote unless you tell them.

**Who can vote?** First, you must register to vote. You can vote in Maine if you are:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Maine
- Age 18 or older

## **When is Election Day?**

- General Election Day is the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- Primary Election Day is the second Tuesday in June.
- Sometimes general and primary elections are combined with city or town elections.
- City or town elections can happen at other times and are determined by the city or town.

**What will I be voting for?** You may choose candidates to run in a primary election. You may elect people to public office. You may vote yes or no on a question:

- Referendum — you choose to pass a law.
- Bond — you choose what projects will be funded with loans to the state.
- Constitutional amendment — you choose to approve the proposed change by the legislature.

# HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN MAINE

**How do I register to vote?** You can register to vote in Maine if you are:

- An 18-year-old citizen of the United States residing in Maine.
- A 17-year-old citizen who will turn 18 by Election Day. You may then also vote in the June primary.
- If you are 16 years old, you can pre-register; your registration will become active when you are old enough to vote.
- Convicted of a crime or in jail. If you are in jail, you register to vote in the town where you lived before going to jail and vote by absentee ballot.
- If you do not have a regular address or a place to live, you can still register to vote.

## **You can register to vote in Maine:**

- By mail: Your registration needs to be received by your city or town clerk by the Tuesday three weeks prior to the election.
- In person: At a voter registration drive; city or town hall; or at your voting place on Election Day. You must fill out a voter registration card (see pages 5-8 for more information).
- When you get a driver's license or state I.D. at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, you will automatically be registered to vote.

**Whether you register in-person or by mail**, you will need to provide proof of identity and proof of residence.

- Many kinds of photo I.D. will work, including student and tribal I.D., state I.D.s, and U.S. passports.
- A piece of mail can show your address.
- If you have no address, you can still register in person in the town where you stay.
- If you're in a jail, your voting address is in the town you lived in before you went to jail.

**You must complete** the front and back of the card:

- Sign and date the card.
- You do not have to join a political party to vote. If you do not want to join a political party, check “Unenrolled” on the registration card.
- For detailed instructions, go to:

 [maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html](https://maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html)

**What is a political party?** A political party is a group of people who share similar ideas about how the government should work. When you register to vote, you can join a political party if you want. It is free.

You can change your party registration. Examples of political parties are listed under “Party Affiliation” on the Voter Registration Card and on pages 9-10.



Use your phone to scan the QR code to learn more about how to register to vote in Maine.



# REGISTRATION CARD

MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION			PARTY AFFILIATION		
 <p><b>Federally required questions:</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Are you a citizen of the United States of America? * <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO                      *If NO, DO NOT complete this application.</p> <p>Are you at least 18 years of age? ** <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO                      **If NO, but you are at least 16 years of age, you may pre-register to vote.</p>			<p><b>2</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Green Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Other qualifying party: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unenrolled (no party choice)		
<b>3</b>	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	
				M / D / Y Y Y Y	
<b>CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Physical address where you live)</b>					
<b>5a</b>	STREET NAME AND NUMBER, <u>NOT</u> A P.O. BOX			CITY, TOWN, PLANTATION OR TOWNSHIP	
<b>CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Complete if different from above address)</b>					
<b>5b</b>	STREET NAME AND NUMBER, OR P.O. BOX, etc.			CITY/TOWN	ZIP CODE
<b>5c</b>	Have you previously been registered to vote? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If the answer is "yes" provide address of previous registration below.				TELEPHONE (Optional)
	CITY/TOWN		COUNTY	STATE	
<b>COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD - PLEASE PRINT</b>					



Use your phone to scan the QR code to access the voter registration application online.



## Voter Registration Card | INSTRUCTIONS

**1** **ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.** Must answer yes to both to be able to register.

**2** **PARTY.** Choose one of these listed possibilities: a Maine qualified party, an Other qualifying party, or Unenrolled. To learn more about Maine political parties, see pages 9-10.

**3** **NAME.** Last Name and First Name or first initial and Middle Name.

**4** **DATE OF BIRTH.** Must be 18 by Election Day to vote.

### **ADDRESS.**

**5a** **Current Resident Address:**  
Street or physical location. (Not a PO Box)

**5b** **Current Mailing Address:**  
Only if different from residence address.  
(Can be a PO Box)

**5c** **Previous Address:**  
If you were registered before and have moved, you must say yes and provide your previous city, county, and state.

# REGISTRATION CARD

## MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

- COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD -

7a  
7b  
7c

6

<p><b>CHANGE OF NAME</b> (Prior legal name, if applicable)</p> <p>LAST _____ FIRST _____ MIDDLE _____</p> <p><b>SIGN AND DATE THIS CARD.</b> I certify that all the information I have provided on this form is true.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant on line above _____ Date on line above _____</p>	<p><b>VOTER ID:</b> By federal law, <b>NEW Maine voters</b> must provide an applicable ID number as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Your <b>Maine</b> driver's license/<b>Maine</b> State ID; or</li> <li>2. The last 4 digits of your Social Security number (<b>ONLY</b> if you don't have a <b>Maine</b> driver's license/<b>Maine</b> State ID); or</li> <li>3. Write "none" <b>ONLY</b> if you don't have either 1 or 2.</li> </ol> <p>_____</p>
--	--

**REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY:** Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Ward-Precinct: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Source of Registration:  In Person  By Mail  Agency  BMV  Voter Registration Drive/3<sup>rd</sup> Person

Type of Registration:

**NEW Maine Voter Registration** Form of Proof for ID: \_\_\_\_\_ for Residency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Change of Existing Voter Registration** (check boxes below) Form of Proof for Residency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address Change to new municipality  Address Change within municipality  Party Enrollment Change

Name Change  Other Change \_\_\_\_\_

**Duplicate Application** (no changes made)

8

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:** Failure to complete this entire application may prevent registration.

- Deliver or mail this completed card to your municipal registrar or to the Division of Elections: #101 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0101. This properly completed application must be received by the municipal registrar 21 days or more before an election. **If less than 21 days before an election, you must register in person.**
- **If you are a NEW Maine voter and mail this card,** you must include a photocopy of your Maine driver's license, Maine State ID, or current utility bill, bank statement or government document that shows your name and address.
- For election information, call 207-624-7650 or visit [www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/](http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/) (rev. 1/20)



Use your phone to scan the QR code to access the voter registration application online.



## Voter Registration Card | INSTRUCTIONS

**6** **VOTER'S SIGNATURE.** Must sign and date the card.

### **VOTER ID.**

**7a** **Maine Driver's License # or Maine ID #:** New voters who have a valid I.D. must list one of these numbers.

**7b** **Social Security Number:** New voters who do not have a Maine license or I.D. must list the last 4 digits of their SSN.

**7c** **None:** Only voters who do not have a Maine license, I.D., or SSN, must write "None."

**8** **REGISTRATION BY MAIL.** New voters who register by mail must provide a copy of their I.D. (e.g. Maine Driver's License) with the registration card and a document showing their address.

- Many kinds of photo I.D. will work, including student and tribal I.D., state I.D.s, and U.S. passports.
- A piece of mail can show your address.
- If you have no address, you can still register in person in the town where you stay.
- If you are in a jail, your voting address is in the town you lived in before you went to jail.

# POLITICAL PARTIES

## **Maine Political Parties**

Many voters choose to join a political party. In 2022, Maine has four qualified political parties: the Democratic Party, Green Independent Party, Libertarian Party, and Republican Party. There are also some smaller parties which voters may join. These smaller parties are not listed on the voter registration card and are not yet large enough to hold party primary elections. The lists of qualified parties and small parties sometimes change as parties get larger or smaller.

## **Party Primary Elections**

The political parties have a special role to play in some elections, especially those for President, Governor, Congress, and State Legislature. Those offices actually have two elections — a primary election and a general election. Each political party holds a primary election to choose the candidate to represent the party later on in the general election. When a political party holds a primary election, only voters who are members of that political party are allowed to vote. Some local and county elected offices do not have primary elections.

## **Voters Not Enrolled in a Political Party**

Voters do not have to join a political party. About one-third of Maine voters do not join a party. They are called “unenrolled” voters. Unenrolled voters are not allowed to vote in primary elections, but they may vote in all other elections. They may vote on any ballot question, and they may vote for any candidate in the general election. For some elections, unenrolled voters might find that they can vote for ballot questions or local candidates, but cannot vote in a primary election held at the same time.

Some political parties are not yet large enough to be listed on the voter registration card or to have their own primaries. These smaller parties may enroll voters and help their candidates get on the general election ballot. Examples of small parties include the Alliance Party, the Yankee Party, and the Socialist Party. Small parties may be called “qualifying parties.”

### **Joining a Political Party**

Voters can choose a political party when they register to vote. They are allowed to switch parties or to become unenrolled, but must wait 90 days after their last registration. Voters who leave a political party can no longer vote in the primary elections held by that party.

### **In 2022, there are four qualified political parties in Maine:**

Maine Democratic Party

 [www.mainedems.org](http://www.mainedems.org)

 (207) 622-6233

Maine Green Independent Party

 [www.mainegreens.org](http://www.mainegreens.org)

 (207) 518-7493

Maine Libertarian Party

 [www.lpme.org](http://www.lpme.org)

 (207) 518-7493

Maine Republican Party

 [www.MaineGOP.com](http://www.MaineGOP.com)

 (207) 622-6247

# BEFORE YOU VOTE

**Where do I go to vote?** To find out where you vote:

- Call your city hall or town office.
- Go to: [🔗 maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter\\_lookup.php](https://maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php)
- Vote by absentee ballot (see page 13).

**What time can I vote?** Voting places open between 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM on Election Day. The opening time is not the same for all cities and towns. All voting places close at 8:00 PM. Closing times will vary in city or town elections.

**How can I avoid the crowds?** Voting places tend to be less crowded from 10:00–11:30 AM and 1:30–3:30 PM.

**What if my name is not on the list at the voting place?**

- The election clerk will help you.
- You may need to register to vote.
- You may be sent to a different voting place.
- You may need to vote a challenged ballot.

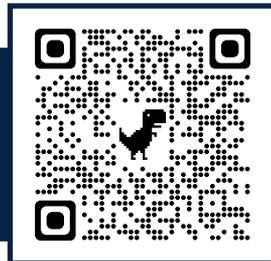
**Do I need an I.D. (Identification Card)?** You should bring your I.D. and proof of your address (example is driver's license and electric bill) if:

- You are a first-time voter.
- You have moved.
- You need to register to vote on Election Day.

Don't worry — no eligible voter can be turned away.



Use your phone to scan the QR code to find your polling place.



# AT MY VOTING PLACE

**What will I do at the voting place?** When you get to your voting place, you will need to tell the election clerk your name and address. Your name will be on a list if you are registered to vote.

- The election clerk will give you a ballot or ballots.
- A ballot is the paper on which you mark your votes.
- You will go into a private voting booth and complete your ballot.
- You will put the ballot in the ballot box or a machine.

**What if I need help at the voting place?** Ask an election clerk for help if you have any questions. Election clerks can help you fill out a ballot and give you a new one if you need it. You will not be the only one with questions!

## **How do I fill out the ballot?**

- Each ballot tells you how to mark your choices.
- If you have a question, ask an election clerk.
- You do not have to vote for everything. Only the parts you vote on will count.
- Check your ballot.
- If you make a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot.

## **What if I can't read the ballot?**

- You can get help.
- A friend or a relative can help you. Your helper does not have to be a voter or be old enough to vote.
- An election worker can help you with your ballot.
- Your employer or union official cannot help you vote.
- The ExpressVote system will be available if you want to see a large print ballot or hear a ballot read to you.

# ABSENTEE BALLOTS

## What is absentee voting?

- You do not have to go to your voting place on Election Day to vote.
- Complete an absentee ballot at home and mail it to your city or town clerk.
- Complete an absentee ballot in person at your city or town office.

If you are registered to vote, you can ask for an absentee ballot. You must do so by the Thursday before the election.

## How do I get an absentee ballot?

- Ask for an absentee ballot from your city or town office. Absentee ballots are usually available 30 days before the election.
- Request an absentee ballot online from the Division of Elections at: [maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl](https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl)
- You can also ask for an absentee ballot for an immediate family member. The city hall or town office will tell you who is considered an immediate family member.



Use your phone to scan the QR code to request your absentee ballot online.



## **What do I do with my absentee ballot?**

- Fill out the ballot. Remember, you do not have to vote on every question. It is okay to leave questions blank.
- Do not forget to sign and date the envelope.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to your city/town clerk's office by 8:00 PM on Election Day.
- Your town may have a ballot dropbox outside the town hall so that you can return your ballot without mailing it.

## **What if I miss the open window to request my absentee ballot?**

How do I request an absentee ballot after the Thursday before the election? You must complete a special application for one of these reasons:

- You will be out of town unexpectedly all day on Election Day.
- You have a disability.
- You live on an island and are unable to get to the voting place on Election Day.
- You have an illness and cannot leave home or treatment facility.

**Your city or town clerk must receive your absentee ballot by 8:00 PM on Election Day.**

# RANKED CHOICE VOTING

## What is Ranked Choice Voting?

Ranked Choice Voting lets voters rank the candidates in order of preference.

## How does Ranked Choice Voting work?

- Voters rank candidates in the order of their preference: first choice, second choice, third choice, and so on.
- When all the ballots are counted, if one candidate gets more than 50% of the first choice votes, they win.
- If no candidate receives more than 50% of first choice votes, the candidate with fewest votes is considered defeated.
- Voters who ranked the defeated candidate as their first choice have their votes counted for their second choice.
- This is repeated until only two candidates remain. The one with the most votes wins.

## Why should I rank my vote?

- If your first choice is defeated, your ballot will still count for your next highest choice.
- You can't hurt your favorite candidate by also ranking the other candidates. Those choices only count if your first choice is defeated.
- You can't help your favorite candidate by ranking only one candidate. Your first choice will always count if your favorite candidate has not been defeated.

## How do I avoid mistakes on my ballot?

- Mark only one oval per row.
- Mark only one oval per column.
- Rank as many candidates as you like.
- You do not need to rank any candidate that you do not support.
- If you make a mistake, ask the clerk for a new ballot.
- Ask for help. You won't be the only one with questions.

**Here is an example of how to rank your preferred candidates:**

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
 Candidate One	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
 Candidate Two	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
 Candidate Three	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**ABOVE:** In this example, Candidate Two is the 1st choice, and the bubble next to this has been filled in. Candidate One is the 2nd Choice. Candidate Three is the 3rd Choice.

If you are certain of your top choice and only want to vote for Candidate Two, then you only have to fill in the “1st Choice” bubble. You may leave the rest blank.

If you only wanted to rank 2 out of the 3 candidates, then you would fill in the bubbles for “1st Choice” and “2nd Choice” but you may leave “3rd Choice” blank.

The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund conducts voter service and citizen education activities. It is a nonpartisan, nonprofit public policy educational organization which:

- Builds citizen participation in the democratic process.
- Studies key community issues at all government levels in an unbiased manner.
- Enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

No explanations of the voting process reflect the views of League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund or its distribution partners, including schools, libraries, nonprofit agencies, or other organizations.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE  
EDUCATION FUND**

PO Box 18187  
Portland, ME 04112

207-622-0256  
info@lwwme.org  
www.lwwme.org



@lwwme