

The League's 131st Legislative Priorities



NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE: This bill will guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. The bill takes effect when enacted by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes.

Talking Points:

- National Popular Vote (NPV) is an agreement among the states to ensure that whichever candidate for President gets the most votes across all 50 states and Washington D.C. is elected president.
- The compact will go into effect when it has been joined by enough states to win the Electoral College – 270 electors.
- The current system of electing the President allows a candidate to win the Presidency without getting the most popular votes across the nation.
- Presidential candidates can ignore three-quarters of the states in general election campaigns and concentrate only on “swing states.”
- NPV ensures that the candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states (and D.C.) will be elected President by the Electoral College.
- The compact has been adopted by 15 states plus Washington D.C., possessing 195 electoral votes.



ONGOING ABSENTEE VOTING: This bill will allow voters to sign up to receive an absentee ballot in every election without having to reapply each time. It will be available for both state and local elections.

Talking Points:

- Once voters sign up, they remain on the absentee voter list until they request to be removed or are removed from the list of active voters.
- The bill also calls for improved absentee ballot tracking and status notifications to absentee voters.
- By automatically providing ballots for all elections, this bill will improve voter awareness and participation in off-year elections.
- The bill will make it easier for Mainers that know they will vote by absentee ballot to participate in all elections.
- This legislation will expand the current ongoing absentee program (passed in 2021 and limited to certain groups of voters) so all Mainers can use it.

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2023



TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY: This legislation implements recommendations from the 2020 task force examining the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement, to ensure that the Wabanaki Nations in Maine can enjoy the same benefits as all other federally-recognized tribes in the United States.

Talking Points (via the Wabanaki Alliance):

- The Wabanaki Nations in Maine have a different, more restrictive status than all 570 other federally-recognized tribes in the United States.
- The tribes in Maine have been unable to benefit from more than 150 federal laws passed since 1980, missing out on opportunities for economic development, increased access to health care, expanded environmental protections, and more.
- In 2020, a bipartisan task force recommended changes to the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980 to restore the tribes' inherent rights. Many of those recommendations are included in this legislation.
- This legislation is not about special privileges. It is about fairness and equity — to be treated like the other federally-recognized tribes across the country.



ENDING FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SPENDING IN MAINE ELECTIONS: This bill will stop foreign governments from spending in Maine referendum elections and affirm Maine's support for an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This bill has received enough signatures to qualify for the November, 2023 ballot; and we are asking the Legislature to pass this measure outright.

Talking Points:

- Maine is not for sale to foreign governments or wealthy campaign contributors. Maine belongs to the Maine people.
- This is a citizen-initiated bill that has overwhelming support among Maine people. We ask the Legislature to pass it outright.
- There are two key provisions in this initiative. First, it will ban foreign governments from spending money in Maine referendum elections. (Surprise! Yes, this is currently allowed!)
- Second, the initiative affirms Maine's support for an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution and charges the Maine Ethics Commission to report on the progress made by Maine's delegation in Congress to advance this amendment. Such an amendment would allow for reasonable limits on money in our elections.
- 89% of Maine voters support prohibiting foreign governments and foreign government-influenced entities from spending money to influence Maine elections, and 73% of Maine voters support an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- For far too long, the voices of Maine voters have been drowned out by foreign government interference and dark money special interest groups. With this initiative, Maine has the opportunity to stop corruption, protect the integrity of our elections, and to restore confidence in our democracy.

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