



## A Note from Anna

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
League of Women Voters of Maine,  
Maine Citizens for Clean Elections**

It's been two years since the League of Women Voters of Maine and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections announced our partnership. Our collaboration is helping us reach new heights. We had unprecedented ambition in the legislative session this year, and we won Automatic Voter Registration, the presidential primary, and a ban on lobbyist contributions to legislators. Now we're bringing our shared resources to ensuring every Mainer votes and that their votes matter.

November 5th is the anniversary of Maine's ratification of the 19th amendment, when many women won the right to vote. As we commemorate this anniversary (and prepare for the League's 100th birthday next year), we have so much to learn from the fight for women's suffrage.

The leaders were complicated human beings - just like you and me - and they built an extraordinary movement. We, too, live in challenging times - but working together, we can build the democracy we need to survive.

What can you do to make democracy work? How about volunteer for a voter registration drive, help your local League put on a candidate forum, tell your state legislators to use Clean Elections, write a letter to the editor about election security...there are so many ways to work for our democracy, and we need everyone's hands, voice, and heart in the fight.



Anna Kellar



Volunteers registered new voters in the Greater Portland Area in celebration of National Voter Registration Day in September. Want to join future volunteer efforts? Email [volunteer@lwvme.org](mailto:volunteer@lwvme.org)

## **LWV** Celebrating National Voter Registration Day

September 24 was National Voter Registration Day, but we didn't think one day was enough! That's why the League of Women Voters of Maine spent all month driving voter registration through various events and outreach initiatives.

Last month, the League of Women Voters of the Portland Area partnered with Avesta Housing and the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center to register new citizens in Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook. The Brunswick chapter registered voters at Midcoast Hunger Prevention, and the Bangor, Downeast, and Midcoast chapters held registration events at multiple public high schools and libraries, making this a true statewide effort.

To participate in future voter registration efforts, email [volunteer@lwvme.org](mailto:volunteer@lwvme.org).



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# 2019 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



## ABOUT DEMOCRACY MAINE

Democracy Maine is a collaboration between two nonpartisan organizations: the League of Women Voters of Maine and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. We lead Maine in advocating for voter rights, campaign finance reform, modern and secure elections, government ethics, and voter education and engagement.

In the 2019 legislative session, we supported six priority bills that would improve Maine's democracy. A ✓ indicates a vote that supported our position. An ✗ indicates a vote against.

We encourage you to contact your legislators about their votes! Thank them, express your disappointment, or both. To find out who your legislators are, go to [legislature.maine.gov](http://legislature.maine.gov).

For more information, including a cool, interactive map, visit: [democracymaine.org/scorecard](http://democracymaine.org/scorecard).

To get involved, contact us:  
phone: 207-831-6223  
email: [info@democracymaine.org](mailto:info@democracymaine.org)

The information on this scorecard does not constitute endorsement of any individual legislator.

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## OUR PRIORITY BILLS:

### *Lobbyist Contribution Ban*

LD 54 would prohibit lobbyists from contributing to candidates' political campaigns year-round (their contributions were already banned during the legislative session). The bill that passed is much narrower in scope than we wanted -- it does not include contributions from the companies or organizations that employ the lobbyists -- but it's a step in the right direction.

**RESULT: PARTIAL VICTORY** (awaiting Governor's signature)

### *Early Voting*

LD 619 is an amendment to the Maine Constitution that would allow municipalities to hold early voting up to 30 days before an election. Early voting is supported by the Maine Secretary of State and the Maine Town and City Clerks Association, as well as by the League of Women Voters. The bill failed to gain the needed two-thirds majority in both chambers.

**RESULT: DEFEATED**

### *National Popular Vote*

LD 816 would have Maine join the National Popular Vote Compact, which would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It gained enough support to pass in the Senate, but ultimately failed in the House.

**RESULT: DEFEATED**

### *Automatic Voter Registration*

LD 1463 would automatically register eligible citizens to vote when they receive or renew their driver's license or ID at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and/or when they apply for or renew their eligibility for MaineCare, unless they opt out. It would also pre-register 16-year-old citizens when they get their first driver's license or state ID.

**RESULT: SIGNED INTO LAW**

### *Ranked Choice Voting*

LD 1477 would amend the Maine Constitution to permit ranked choice voting (RCV) in general elections for governor and state legislature. Because it's a constitutional amendment, this bill required the approval of two-thirds in each chamber before going to the voters for ratification. Despite gaining majorities in both chambers, it failed final passage.

**RESULT: DEFEATED**

### *Presidential Primary*

LD 1626 was the Secretary of State's bill to restore presidential primaries in Maine. This was among our highest priorities, as it would implement a more inclusive and confidential system than caucuses. Its passage means that Maine will be among states voting on Super Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

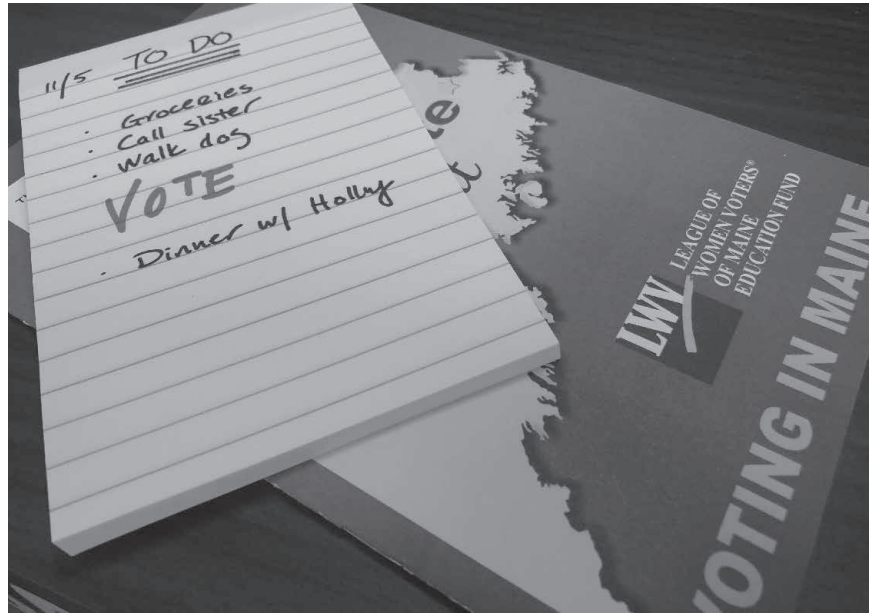
**RESULT: SIGNED INTO LAW**



# **LWV** GET READY: **ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, NOV. 5**

Fall calls to mind many things - spectacular foliage, crisp, autumnal air, and the anticipation of holidays with friends and family. At Democracy Maine, we're also gearing up for Election Day - a time for us all to exercise our right to vote and form a more perfect, representative government.

To prepare for Election Day, look no further than the extraordinary resources developed by the League of Women Voters of Maine. Our site, at [www.lwvme.org/elections](http://www.lwvme.org/elections), features a bounty of educational materials to make it easy for every voter to head to the polls confident and informed. Do you have any specific questions, or need more information? Please get in touch so we can help you prepare for November 5!



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# **INSIDE:**

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Democracy Maine Legislative Scorecard



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