



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?

You must first 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 2nd 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 or elected officials. You may answer questions by voting Yes or No:

- 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.

Register to Vote

☆ 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.
- 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.
- · Homeless.

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; Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV); city or town hall; or at your voting place on Election Day.

You must fill out a voter registration card (see pages 3-4). 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: http://www.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 5-6.



Registration Card (F)

★ Voter Registration Card - Front

	MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION PARTY AFFILIATION				
1	Federally required questions: Are you a citizen of the United States of America?				
	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	
	3			\overline{M} \overline{M} \overline{D} \overline{D} \overline{V} \overline{V} \overline{V} \overline{V}	
	CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Physical address where you live)				
5a	STREET NAME AND NUMBER, <u>NOT</u> A P.O. BOX CITY, TOWN, PLA		OWN, PLANTATION (OR TOWNSHIP	
	CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Complete if different from above address)				
5в	STREET NAME AND NUMBER, OR P.O.	D. BOX, etc. CITY/TO	WN	ZIP CODE	
	Have you previously been re	egistered to vote?	☐ YES ☐ NO	TELEPHONE	
5 c	If the answer is "yes" provide address of previous registration below.				
	CITY/TOWN	COUNTY	STATE		

COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD - PLEASE PRINT

Required to complete:

- ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS. Must answer yes to both to be able to register.
- **PARTY.** Choose one of these listed possibilities: a Maine qualified party, an Other qualifying party, or Unenrolled. (See more on pages 5-6)
- **NAME.** Last Name and First Name or first initial and Middle Name.
- **DATE OF BIRTH.** Must be 18 by Election Day to vote. 4
- 5 ADDRESS.
 - **5A.** Current Resident Address. Street or physical location. (Not a PO Box)
 - **5B.** Current Mailing Address. Only if different from resident 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 (B)

Voter Registration Card - Back

MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION - COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD -				
CHANGE OF NAME (Prior legal name, if applicable)	VOTER ID: By federal law, NEW Maine voters must provide an applicable ID number as follows: 1. Your Maine driver's license/Maine State ID; or			
SIGN AND DATE THIS CARD. I certify that all the information I have provided on this form is true.	The last 4 digits of your Social Security number (ONLY if you don't have a Maine driver's license Maine State ID); or Write "none" ONLY if you don't have either 1 or 7			
REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY: Date Received: Ward-Precinct:				
Source of Registration: In Person By Mail Agency BMV Voter Registration Drive/3rd 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:				
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.				

- VOTER'S SIGNATURE AND DATE. Must sign and date the card.
- VOTER ID.
 - 7A. Maine Driver's License # or Maine ID #. New voters who have a valid ID must list one of these numbers.
 - 7B. Social Security Number. New voters who do not have a Maine license or ID must list the last four digits of their SSN.
 - **7C. None.** Only voters who do not have a Maine license, ID, or SSN, must write "None"!
- **REGISTRATION BY MAIL.** New voters who register by mail must provide a copy of their ID (Maine Driver's License or ID) with registration card and a document showing their address, such as a utility bill.



Political Parties

★ Choosing a Political Party

To vote in a primary election, you must choose one of Maine's three qualified political parties: Democratic, Green Independent, or Republican. If you check "Other qualifying party" (with or without writing a choice on the line provided) or choose Unenrolled (no party choice), you may vote in *general* elections but not primary elections.

Qualified vs. Qualifying Political **Parties**

Qualified political parties have proven statewide support. Candidates associated with qualified political parties participate in primary elections. That means if the party has two or more candidates running for the same office, the nomination will be decided in the primary. As of Summer 2019, the qualified parties in Maine are the Maine Democratic, Maine Green Independent, and Maine Republican parties.

Qualifying parties may enroll voters, organize and nominate candidates, but may only participate in a primary if they collect enough enrollments. Examples of qualifying parties include the Alliance Party, the Libertarian Party, and the Socialist Party.

★ Maine Democratic Party

www.mainedems.org

Government should work for all Mainers. Everyone should have a fair shot at success. Our values lead us in our work. We fight for health care for everyone, strong schools everywhere, and an economy that works for all Mainers. 207-622-6233

Top Priorities:

- 1. An economy that works for everyone.
- 2. Health care for all.
- 3. Fairness and equality.



Political Parties (cont.)

Maine Green Independent Party

www.mainegreens.org

The Maine Green Party is based on Ten Key Values: Grassroots Democracy; Social Justice and Equal Opportunity; Ecological Wisdom; Non-Violence: Decentralization: Community-Based Economics and Economic Justice; Gender Equality; Respect for Diversity; Personal and Global Responsibility; and Future Focus and Sustainability.

207-200-6447

Top Priorities:

- 1. Sustainable Jobs for the People of Maine.
- 2. Climate Change and Social Justice.
- People, Peace, and Planet over Profit.



maine Republican Party

www.MaineGOP.com

The Maine Republican Party is committed to individual liberty; religious freedom; low and fair taxes; equality of opportunity for all; affordable government; strengthening families and communities; protecting the Constitution; and the safety of the American people.

207-622-6247

Top Priorities:

- Job creation, economic growth and increased prosperity.
- Security and safety.
- Individual & religious liberty.



Before You Vote

To find out where you vote:

- · Call your city hall or town office.
- Go to http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php
- · Vote by absentee ballot (more information on page 9).

Voting places open between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Election Day. The opening time is not the same for all cities and towns.

All voting places close at 8:00 p.m.

Closing times will vary in city or town elections.

The How can I avoid the crowds?

Voting places tend to be less crowded from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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.

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.



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 guestions!

The 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.

- 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 don't 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.

The 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 http://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.

What do I do with my absentee ballot?

- Fill out the ballot. Remember, you don't have to vote on every question. It is okay to leave questions blank.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to your city/town clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

The 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 p.m. on Election Day.



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: http://www.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

Phone: 207-624-7650

Email: cec.elections@maine.gov

Website: http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/index.html



League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund

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 PHONE: 207-622-0256

EMAIL: INFO@LWVME.ORG

WEBSITE: www.lwvme.org/about_edfund.html

The text for this brochure is available online at www.lwvme.org/about_edfund.html



