

EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE

VOTE
NOV. 5

2019 City Election – Portland, Maine – November 5, 2019



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About this Guide



The League of Women Voters of the Portland Area is pleased to distribute 10,000 copies of this voter guide for the 2019 Portland municipal election.

This information is nonpartisan. This means that the information in this guide does not endorse or support any candidate, political party, or position on a ballot question.

All candidate statements are provided by the candidates and not edited or changed by the League of Women Voters. The Voter Guide provides information on both sides of an issue and does not endorse any ballot question or bond issue.

No candidate statements or explanations of any ballot questions are the views of the League or any of our distribution partners, including any schools, libraries, nonprofit organizations, or agencies.

★ **Questions & Copies of this Guide**

If you have questions, call 207-622-0256 ext. 2, or email voterguide@lwvme.org

This guide is also available online at lwvme.org

★ Why Vote?

★ Why vote?

You can help make important changes in the way your town, state, and country are run.

★ Is my vote private?

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

★ Who can vote?

You can vote in Portland if you are:

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

You must first register to vote. Read about how to register on the next page.

★ What will I be voting for?

On Tuesday November 5th, Portland, Maine voters will choose:

- Mayor (1 seat)
- City Council, District 3 (1 seat)
- City Council, At Large (1 seat)
- Board of Education (“School Board”), District 3 (1 seat)
- Board of Education (“School Board”), At Large (2 seats)
- Peaks Island Council (1 seat)

More about candidates on pages 13-20.

Maine voters will answer Yes or No to a statewide bond question and a constitutional amendment:

- There is one bond question – voters decide if the state can borrow money to pay for certain projects.
- There is one constitutional amendment – voters choose if the state constitution should be changed.

More on ballot questions on pages 21-23.

★ When is Election Day?

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 5, 2019.**

★ Registering to Vote

★ How do I register to vote?

You can register to vote in Portland, Maine if you are:

- An 18-year old citizen of the United States residing in Portland, Maine.
- A 17-year old citizen can pre-register to vote who will turn 18 before or on Election Day.

People convicted of a crime or in jail can still vote. If you are in jail, you register to vote in the town where you lived before going to jail and vote by absentee ballot.

More information about absentee ballots on page 11.

People who are homeless can still vote. If you are homeless, you register to vote using the location where you sleep. This location could be a shelter, a friend's place, or outside.

★ You can register to vote for the November 5 election:

- By mail. *Your registration needs to be received by the city clerk by October 15, 2019.*
- At a voter registration drive by October 14. *Registrations need to be received by the city clerk by October 15, 2019.*
- At a Bureau of Motor Vehicles office by October 4. *Registrations need to be received by the city clerk by October 15, 2019.*
- In person at City Hall anytime, up to and including Election Day, November 5, 2019.
- At your voting place on Election Day, November 5, 2019.

★ You must fill out a voter registration card:

- Complete both 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>

★ Voter Registration Card

★ This is an example of a voter registration card

MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION			PARTY AFFILIATION		
Federally required questions:			<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)		
♦ Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO ♦ Will you be 18 years of age on or before Election Day? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			If you checked "no" in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form. You must be a U.S. citizen in order to vote.		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	DATE OF BIRTH		
			MM / DD / YYYY		
CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Physical address where you live)					
STREET NAME AND NUMBER, <u>NOT</u> A P.O. BOX			CITY, TOWN, PLANTATION OR TOWNSHIP		
CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Complete if different from above address)					
STREET NAME AND NUMBER, OR P.O. BOX, etc.			CITY/TOWN		ZIP CODE
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		
COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD – PLEASE PRINT					

MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION - COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD -					
CHANGE OF NAME (Prior legal name, if applicable) LAST _____ FIRST _____ MIDDLE _____			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 2. The last 4 digits of your Social Security number (ONLY if you don't have a Maine driver's license/ Maine State ID); or 3. Write "none" ONLY if you don't have either 1 or 2.		
SIGN AND DATE THIS CARD. I certify that all the information I have provided on this form is true. Signature of Applicant on line above Date on line above					
REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY: Date Received: _____ Ward-Precinct: _____ - _____ Source of Registration: <input type="checkbox"/> In Person <input type="checkbox"/> By Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Agency <input type="checkbox"/> BMV <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration Drive/3 rd Person Type of Registration: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW Maine Voter Registration Form of Proof for ID: _____ for Residency: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Existing Voter Registration (check boxes below) Form of Proof for Residency: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change to new municipality <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change within municipality <input type="checkbox"/> Party Enrollment Change <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change <input type="checkbox"/> Other Change _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate Application (no changes made)					
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Failure to complete this entire application may prevent registration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/elect (rev.12/18) 					

★ Before Voting

★ Where do I go to vote?

Portland has 12 polling (voting) places. You must go to the voting place assigned to the neighborhood where you live. To find out where to vote:

- Call the Portland City Clerk's Office at 207-874-8677
- Go to http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php

★ What time do I vote?

Voting places open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Contact the City Clerk's Office (207-874-8677) if you have any questions.

If you are in line to vote at 8:00 p.m., you will not be turned away at 8:00 p.m. and will be able to vote.

★ How can I avoid the crowds at my voting place?

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

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

- The people working at the voting place will help you.
- You may need to register to vote. *You may register to vote at the polling place. You must bring identification and something that shows a current address. A driver's license or state identification with your current address meets both criteria; a checkbook or bill addressed to you at your current address along with a social security card, birth certificate, or hunting/fishing license will also meet the criteria.*
- You may be sent to a different voting place.
- If your problem is not solved, you can ask to vote with a **"challenged ballot."** *Your vote will count on Election Day. Your problem can be solved later.*

★ Do I need an ID (identification card)?

No. Registered Maine voters **do not** need to show ID to vote.

BUT, you should bring your ID and proof of your address (example is a 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 the Voting Place

★ What will I do at the voting place?

- Go to the election clerk. Give your name and address.
- If you are registered to vote, your name will be on the list.
- The election clerk will give you a ballot or ballots.
- A ballot is the paper where you mark your votes.
- You will go into a private voting booth and mark your ballot.
- When you are done, you will put the ballot into 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.
- You will be using ranked choice voting for the mayoral election. You can rank as many candidates as you wish, or you can rank only one.
- 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 have made a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot.

★ What if I can't read the ballot?

You can get help from:

- A friend or a relative. *Your helper does not have to be a voter. Your helper does not have to be old enough to vote.*
- An election worker.

Your employer or union official cannot help you vote.

A special machine is available if you want to see a large print ballot or hear a ballot read to you. ***More information about this on the next page.***

★ ExpressVote System

★ What is ExpressVote?

ExpressVote is for people who may have difficulty reading a ballot. It is a device that can be used to help you read or hear your ballot and fill it out.

★ Can I use ExpressVote at my voting place?

Yes, you can use ExpressVote at any voting place.

- Tell the election clerk at your voting place you want to use ExpressVote.
- The election clerk will set up the ExpressVote for you to use.

★ How does ExpressVote work?

- ExpressVote has a video display screen and built-in ballot printer.
- The ballot can be seen in large print.
- The ballot can be read to you through headphones that are provided.

★ How do I make my selections with ExpressVote?

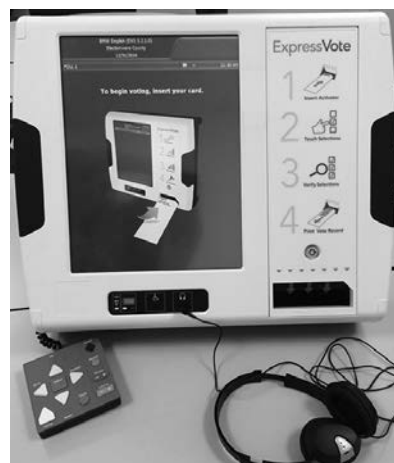
You can make your selections by:

- Touching the screen.
- Using a keypad with different-shaped, colored buttons with braille labels.
- Using a switch with a green YES or a red NO.

When you are done, the device prints a ballot marked with your choices.

You put your ballot into the ballot box or counting machine.

*For more information on the ExpressVote system visit
<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/accessiblevoting.html>*



This is a tabletop ExpressVote unit, with a keypad and headphones.

★ Ranked Choice Voting

★ Where is ranked choice voting used?

Voters in Portland use ranked choice voting only to elect the Mayor. *Ranked choice voting is not used for city council, school board, or other races.*

★ 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, he or she wins.
- If no candidate receives more than 50% of first choice votes, the candidate with fewest votes is defeated.
- Voters who ranked the defeated candidate as their first choice have their votes counted for their second choice.
- This is repeated until a candidate receives 50% of the votes; that candidate is declared the winner.

★ 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 whom 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.

★ Which races will have ranked choice voting this November?

Ranked choice voting will be used in the November 5, 2019 election only to elect the Mayor of Portland.

★ Sample Ballot

★ **This is a sample ranked choice ballot.**

SAMPLE BALLOT
GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
PORTLAND, MAINE
ALL DISTRICTS
NOVEMBER 5, 2019

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. To vote, complete the oval(s) next to your choice(s), like this:
- B. Follow the special instructions for the mayoral election.
- C. To vote for a write-in candidate, write the person's name in the write-in space and fill in an oval next to the name.
- D. If you make a mistake, do not erase; ask for a new ballot.

Special Instructions: Rank Candidates for Mayor in order of Choice.

- Fill in the first oval to the right of your 1st choice.
- Select a 2nd choice, fill in the 2nd choice oval to the right of the candidate.
- Continue until you have ranked all your choices.
- You may rank as many or as few candidates as you wish.
- Fill in no more than one oval per candidate.
- Fill in no more than one oval per column.

For Mayor Four Year Term (Rank candidates in order of choice) No more than <u>one</u> oval per <u>column</u> . No more than <u>one</u> oval per <u>candidate</u> .	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
Curran, Travis H. 63 Emerson Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snyder, Kathleen M 31 Kenwood Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strimling, Ethan K. 655 Congress Street #618	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thibodeau, Spencer R. 183 Brackett Street Unit 30B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

THIS IS A TWO SIDED BALLOT

★ Absentee Ballots

★ What is absentee voting?

If you want to vote before Election Day, you can use an absentee ballot.

If you are registered to vote, you can ask for an absentee ballot. **You must do so by 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2019.**

Absentee ballots are available starting 30 days before the election. That is around October 7, 2019.

★ How do I get an absentee ballot?

- You do not need a reason to request an absentee ballot by Thursday, October 31.
- You can ask for an absentee ballot from the City Clerk by calling 207-874-8677 or 207-874-8610.
- You can request an absentee ballot at this link: <https://maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>
The Secretary of State's Office will forward your request to Portland's City Clerk's Office.
- A member of your immediate family may request a ballot for you. Call the Portland City Clerk's Office (207-874-8677) for more information.
- Uniformed service members and overseas voters have different instructions. Follow instructions from the Maine Secretary of State here: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/uocava.html>

★ What do I do with my absentee ballot?

- Fill out the ballot.
- Put it in the special envelope and sign the envelope.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to Portland City Clerk's Office at Portland City Hall, 389 Congress Street, Room 203, Portland, ME 04101.

The Portland City Clerk must receive your absentee ballot by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 5, 2019.
Do not bring your absentee ballot to a voting place on Election Day.

★ How do I request an absentee ballot after Thursday, October 31, 2019?

It is harder to get an absentee ballot after the Thursday before the election.

To get an absentee ballot after the Thursday before the election, go in person to your city hall or town office and complete a special application. Your application must include one of the following 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 a treatment facility.

★ More Information

★ How do I find the Portland City Clerk's Office?

The City Clerk's Office is located at:

Portland City Clerk

389 Congress Street

Room 203

Portland, ME 04101

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

Phone: 207-874-8610

Email: cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov

Website: portlandmaine.gov/149/City-Clerk

★ Can I see the ballot before the election?

Yes. You can see what the ballot looks like at this link:

https://maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php

★ Mayor of Portland

The Mayor of Portland acts as the leader of the city, helping to change city policies, overseeing hiring and removing the City Manager, City Clerk, and Corporation Counsel, providing advice to the City Manager, and helping to prepare city budgets and improvement plans. The Mayor can veto budgets, which the council can override. The Mayor is a member of the City Council.

The Mayor of Portland is a nonpartisan office, meaning candidates do not represent any political party.

Term (years until next election): 4 years

Salary: \$76,615 a year

★ Candidates



Ranked Choice Ballot



Travis Curran

Current Job: Restaurant Server

Website: facebook.com/traviscurranformayor

Statement: “I, Travis Curran, seek to represent the hardworking people of Portland, Maine. The service industry is the backbone that makes our city such a wonderful destination, and Portland needs to be affordable enough for the people that work here to live here.”

Experience: “With over a decade in the service industry I am very familiar with giving people what they want. Working in the Arts has provided experience organizing events, fundraising, and bringing critical elements together to produce results. I’m not accepting any donations and cannot be bought or influenced by corporate interests.”

Goals:

- Improving public transportation, lowering parking prices, more public lots and public restrooms
- Creating affordable housing for lower-to-medium income families working in Portland
- Stopping street harassment and making streets safer for pedestrians



Kate Snyder

Current Job: Executive Director, Foundation for Portland Public Schools

Website: kateformayor.me

Statement: “A mayor must ask questions before offering solutions to complex problems. I will lead with integrity, develop priorities together with the Council and staff, and work together with all stakeholders to make good decisions that strengthen Portland’s sense of place, and sense of belonging for all of us.”

Experience: “I have experience successfully managing public budget processes in Portland during a highly unsettled economic period. Elected at-large to the school board, I spent six years helping to lead a team grounded in collaboration. We rebuilt leadership and were laser focused on accountability to the community.”

Goals:

- Responsive and responsible budget development that balances civic aspirations with capacity
- Strong well-funded schools that serve as an anchor and attraction for Portland
- Ample affordable and low income eligible housing options

★ Mayor of Portland

Candidates (continued)



Ranked Choice Ballot



Ethan Strimling

Current Job: Mayor of Portland, ME

Website: MayorStrimling.com

Statement: “My job, as Mayor, is to be your voice in City Hall. I then must pass policies that meet your needs. I do that by spending a lot of time listening to families, workers and small businesses. I then take what I hear and pass policies to help.”

Experience: “I have been Mayor for four years. In that time we have begun rebuilding schools. We have banned lawn poisons. We are providing rent relief. City Hall’s power now comes from the sun. Also, we have built much-needed affordable housing. My experience is achieving results that matter.”

Goals:

- I want all four year olds to go to public school
- I want to build more affordable housing
- I want more public buses and trains



Spencer Thibodeau

Current Job: City Councilor (Portland), Attorney

Website: spencerthibodeau.com

Statement: “Municipal government must (i) act as a convener of people and information to serve a common purpose; (ii) provide a level playing field through ordinances and laws; (iii) to ensure quality education and workforce opportunities to all; and, (iv) to improve the quality of life for every resident.”

Experience: “As a current City Councilor, member of the Housing and Economic Development Committees, and the Chair of the Sustainability and Transportation Committee, I have the experience necessary to be the next Mayor of Portland. I also served on Gov. Janet Mills’ transition team and maintain good relationships in Augusta.”

Goals:

- Restore faith in municipal office by ending divisive politics at City Hall
- Ensure Portland’s growth doesn’t leave anyone behind
- Address climate change through clean energy, transportation and infrastructure investments

★ Portland City Council – District 3

The City Council enacts rules, ordinances, and resolutions relating to all of the city's affairs and government, including police, public health, public works such as water and sewer, and many more. There are five council districts in Portland and three at-large council positions. The council adopts an annual budget for both municipal and school operations and provides for an annual audit. The council appoints the city manager, corporation counsel, and city clerk.

Portland City Council officers are nonpartisan, meaning candidates do not represent any political party.

Term (years until next election): 4 years

Salary: \$6,811 a year

★ Candidates – District 3



Traditional Ballot (*vote for 1*)



Tae Chong

Current Job: Manager of Social Enterprise and Job Development, Catholic Charities Maine

Website: TaeChong.com

Statement: "I believe in, and have devoted my career to, servant leadership. I believe a leader is someone who has the skills and confidence to lift others so that all can benefit from shared goals. To do this, a servant leader is skillful enough to know when to help, assist, coach and lead to solve a problem."

Experience: "I know my way around city hall, the business community, growing and diverse immigrant communities and neighborhoods in District 3. In Portland, I served on the School Committee, chaired the Community Block Grant committee, worked for the Police Department, work with the Chamber, and helped local small businesses create new businesses and jobs."

Goals:

- Make public transportation more user friendly – invest in bus stops in neighborhood centers
- Look at all creative options to create housing for elderly, young professionals and New Mainers
- Improve economic opportunities for New Mainers and for our young professionals and help them find pathways to be homeowners in Portland



Andy Graham

Current Job: Retired

Website: grahamforcitycouncil.com

Statement: "I believe the purpose of government is to ensure the public good, equitably. I am an environmentalist with grave concerns about the future. I am a humanist and learned at the Muskie School to value critical thinking and evidence. I am progressive in my values and actions."

Experience: "I bring my experience as a long-time Portland business owner, non-profit founder, and my public policy background to the table. I've been successful in moving from concept and belief to accomplished project."

Goals:

- Rethink Portland's economic development goals; ask how they serve the majority of the Portland community
- Utilize city land to develop affordable housing; prioritize housing over more lucrative opportunities
- Improve community services including road maintenance and snow clearing

★ Portland City Council – District 3

Candidates – District 3 (continued)



Traditional Ballot (vote for 1)



Layla Kagar

Current Job: Payments company & magazine owner

Website: [facebook.com/laylaforportland](https://www.facebook.com/laylaforportland)

Statement: “I am a strong immigrant business woman with a big heart and creative mind. I have the ability to find solutions that work for everyone. I came to America with my family from Afghanistan and grew up in Portland schools. I’m a champion for those who need the most help.”

Experience: “I am seeking this office because we need smarts and courage in our decision making, and a strong voice to help those who need it. As an immigrant, I overcame challenges. As a woman, I grew success in the business world. As a human being, I feel compassion for others. We need someone who will be the voice for those who can’t speak in our city.”

Goals:

- Affordable housing (people with little money should have good homes to live in)
- Making money for district three, without dipping into the city budget
- Transportation for Portland residents, so they can live and work and drive in Portland



Ed Suslovic

Current Job: Sustainable Development Consultant

Website: ElectEdSuslovic.com

Statement: “I am running for office because the residents of District 3 both need and deserve a strong and effective voice at city hall! I believe in collaborative leadership and value meaningful community engagement in all decision making.”

Experience: “I have a broad and deep background serving the people of Portland (see ElectEdSuslovic.com for more info) and will put to use my extensive network of community volunteers in exploring better solutions to Portland’s challenges.”

Goals:

- Developing and implementing effective community engagement practices in public policy making
- Closing the housing gap in Greater Portland. Step 1 is removing regulatory barriers standing in the way of hundreds of affordable housing units
- Incorporating the 3 principles of sustainability in every decision that we make - environmental, economic, and social equity



Andrew Volk

Current Job: Restaurant Owner

Website: VoteAndrewVolk.com

Statement: “As a progressively-minded small business owner and a father of two small children, I am strongly in favor of seeing the City of Portland grow and prosper in a sustainable and equitable way for all.”

Experience: “I currently own and run two small businesses that employ nearly 50 people in the City of Portland. Because of that I am uniquely positioned to both understand and address the current issues that face our City, including a need for affordable housing and public transportation.”

Goals:

- Addressing the severe need for affordable housing in our City
- Helping our neighborhoods and communities grow in a sustainable manner
- Strengthening public transit

★ Portland City Council – At Large

★ Candidate – At Large



Traditional Ballot (*vote for 1*)



Pious Ali

Current Job: Muskie School - USM

Website: piousali.com

Statement: "Government works effectively only when the people it represents are fully engaged in the decision-making process from beginning to end, especially those who have been historically unengaged. I will continue to work to improve engagement between Portland residents and City Hall and will propose a new Office of Resident Engagement and Inclusivity."

Experience: "I served on the Board of Education and am currently a City Councilor. I collaborated with others to start the hashtag #PortlandParticipates, which led to changing Portland's Comprehensive planning process by expanding participation and bringing more voices to the table, including, for the first time, voices of young people and other historically under-engaged residents."

Goals:

- Workforce development
- Housing
- Expanding engagement between city hall and residents

★ Portland Board of Education – District 3

The Portland Board of Public Education is responsible for providing educational programs for all of the students in the City of Portland public schools. The School Board has nine members. It establishes the policies that direct programs within the system of 18 public schools. The School Board hires the Superintendent, who supervises and implements those programs and policies.

Portland School Board elections are nonpartisan, meaning candidates do not represent any political party.

Term (years until next election): 3 years

Salary: \$8,324.06 a year for the Chair,
\$6,450.24 for other members

★ Candidates – District 3



Traditional Ballot (vote for 1)



Adam Burk

Current Job: Leadership and Community Development

Website: adamburkforschoolboard.com

Statement: “I am running for school board because I believe in kids and public schools. I believe our diversity is our strength. I believe supporting our teachers will help all our students succeed. I value collaboration, research, honesty, and respect for the needs of kids of all ages.”

Experience: “I have been a classroom teacher, a school administrator, and a school trainer. I have a master’s degree in education. I am the father of two kids. My work has been recognized by Maine Development Foundation and the World Economic Forum. I bring relevant experience and knowledge to the position.”

Goals:

- Ensure our curriculum, school practices, and student to teacher ratios help students learn best
- Provide healthy and wholesome food for all students
- Transition the district to sustainable energy and systems



Samuel Rosenthal

Current Job: Retired Radar Systems Engineer

Website: samrosenthaldistrict3schoolboa.godaddysites.com

Statement: “I have always believed in leadership by example. When making decisions I always try to understand the views of others and seek to reach a decision by obtaining a consensus view. When dealing with others, honesty is a quality that I highly value, both of myself and people I am working with.”

Experience: “Being a product of the Portland public school system and a retired engineering professional starting my fifth year as a classroom volunteer helping with the setup and teaching of the Computer Science curricula at Portland High School, give me unique perspectives into the issues facing today’s students.”

Goals:

- Coming up with a plan to improve students’ proficiency in math
- Getting input from teachers on what issues they feel the School Board should be working on
- Working to limit increases in the school budget

★ Portland Board of Education – At Large

★ Candidates – At Large



Traditional Ballot (*vote for 2*)



Roberto Rodriguez

Current Job: Small Business Owner

Website: *none*

Statement: “Roberto is a strong advocate for public education, focused on equity and increasing opportunities for students from economically disadvantaged families. Believes access to high quality public education is a right of every child and that one of the most important investments a city can make are in support of our public schools.”

Experience: “Roberto has served as an At-Large School Board member since 2016 and is the current chair of the Portland Board of Public Education. Roberto and his wife are proud parents of a 6th grader and have been actively involved in their school community since moving to Portland in 2013. Roberto currently owns and operates a small business based out of Portland, Maine.”

Goals:

- Expansion towards Universal Pre-K access in Portland Public Schools
- Increase access to AP and Dual Enrollment classes for high school students who are currently underrepresented in those classrooms
- Support and expand opportunities for student voices in policy decisions and discussions



Anna Trevorrow

Current Job: Medical Malpractice Paralegal

Website: *none*

Statement: “I was raised (by teachers) to believe that education is the foundation of society. My interest is in raising people up and empowering younger generations to make a meaningful impact in the world. I provide an even-temper on the board and excel in areas of finance and process.”

Experience: “I have served 6 years on the board, 2 years as Board Chair, and 2 years as Finance Committee Chair. I have served in numerous leadership positions during this time and twice attended conferences held by the Institute for Educational Leadership. I’ve worked in the banking and legal industries.”

Goals:

- I have one: to narrow the opportunity gap. This will include fighting to ensure adequate resources to support the Portland Promise (the district’s comprehensive plan based on the goals: Achievement, Equity, Whole Student, and People).

★ Peaks Island Council

The Peaks Island Council serves a mostly advisory role, gathering input from the residents of Peaks Island and making recommendations to the Portland City Council on matters relating to the Island. There are seven members of the Peaks Island Council. They are elected to three-year terms, with two or three seats up for election every year.

Peaks Island Council elections are nonpartisan, meaning candidates do not represent any political party.

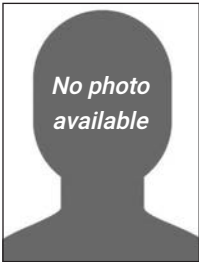
Term (years until next election): 3 years

Salary: *none*

★ Candidate



Traditional Ballot (*vote for 1*)



Michele Winchester

Current Job: *no information available*

Website: *none*

Candidate chose not to participate.

★ Statewide Bond Issues & Constitutional Amendments

★ What is a bond?

- The State of Maine borrows money by selling bonds.
- The State pays interest on the amount it borrows.
- The people must vote on the ballot to approve the bonds to be sold by the State of Maine.
- If the voters approve the bond, the Treasurer sells the bonds to fund the projects. These projects might include roads, bridges, schools, clean water, and research.
- The State pays back the amount it borrows plus interest within a fixed time (usually 10 years).

★ How does a bond question work?

- As a citizen, you get to vote for or against a bond question. The outcome of the bond question decides if the state can borrow money to pay for certain projects.

★ What is the financial impact of passing these bonds?

- If all of the bond questions pass this November, the total repayment on the bonds would be \$255 million over ten years. That's \$200 million in principal and \$55 million in interest.
- If all of the bond questions pass, repaying these and prior bonds would amount to about 2.8% of the State's total budget.
- The money to repay the bonds every year comes out of the State's General Fund and/or Highway Fund. These payments must be made.
- The projects funded by these bonds will generate an additional \$191 million in federal and matching funds that does not have to be repaid.

★ What is a constitutional amendment?

- Constitutional amendments originate in the legislature.
- The Maine Constitution is the highest law of the state.
- Since it is so important, it cannot be changed without approval of the people by voting.
- Constitutional amendments are first voted on by the legislature. If two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate approve the amendment, it is put on the ballot for voters' approval. If a majority of voters approve the amendment, it becomes part of the Maine Constitution.

For more information about the Bond Questions and Constitutional Amendments, go to the Citizen's Guide for the Referendum Election at: <https://maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/>

★ Question 1: Statewide Transportation Bond

Question:

“Do you favor a \$105,000,000 bond issue to build or improve roads, bridges, railroads, airports, transit and ports and make other transportation investments, to be used to match an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds?”

★ What does this question mean?

The bond issue would authorize \$105 million in general obligation bonds for transportation infrastructure projects, including:

- \$85 million to construct and rehabilitate state highways, replace and rehabilitate bridges, and fund the municipal partnership effort
- \$15 million for facilities and equipment related to freight and passenger railroads, transit, ports, marine transportation, aviation, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- \$4 million for a competitive grant program that matches funds from local governments, municipal conservation commissions, soil and water conservation districts, and nonprofit organizations to make upgrades to municipal culverts at stream crossings that improve storm and flood control and improve fish and wildlife habitats
- \$1 million for the renovation of a wharf and bulkhead at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland for the purpose of bringing the wharf back into operation for commercial fishing vessels and marine research vessels



Arguments for **Yes**

- It is important to invest in transportation infrastructure to have safe highways and bridges.
- A good transportation system is important to Maine's economy.
- Attention to transportation safety measures is important to Maine's citizens.
- The matching funds do not have to be repaid, so the bond is a good value for Maine.
- Interest rates are low right now, which means that borrowing now will cost less than it might in the future
- Upgrades to municipal culverts at stream crossings will improve storm and flood control and improve fish and wildlife habitats.
- This bond will lead to jobs.



Arguments for **No**

- Maine would add \$105,000,000 to its debt.
- It will cost a total of \$133,875,000 in principal and interest over 10 years to repay the money.
- These payments must be made which could increase taxes or make it harder to reduce taxes.
- Some believe our transportation system does not need this investment.

★ Question 2: Statewide Constitutional Amendment

Question:

“Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to allow persons with disabilities to sign petitions in an alternative manner as authorized by the Legislature?”

★ What does this question mean?

The Maine State Constitution requires people to sign petitions for citizen-initiated ballot measures with their “original signature”. This proposal would amend Maine’s Constitution to allow voters who have physical disabilities that prevent them from signing their own names to use an alternative method of signing a citizens’ initiative or people’s veto petition. The alternative method would be defined by statute.



Arguments for **Yes**

- Voters who have physical disabilities that prevent them from signing their own names would be given the means to participate in supporting the petition.
- Two laws in Maine protect people with disabilities: The American with Disabilities Act and the Maine Human Rights Act. Both laws make it illegal for government agencies to discriminate against people with disabilities and take steps to make it easier for people with disabilities to use and enjoy public services and benefits.
- At least two-thirds of each branch of the Maine Legislature concur with this change to Maine’s Constitution.



Arguments for **No**

- None.



The League of Women Voters of the Portland Area conducts voter service and citizen education activities. It is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, public policy educational organization that:

- 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.

League of Women Voters of Maine is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Donations to the League of Women Voters of Maine are not tax-deductible.

Join the League of Women Voters of Maine online at: lwvme.org/join.html

The League is not just for women! Anyone who supports the League's mission is welcome as a member.



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