



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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The League of Women Voters of Maine, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major political policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Questions for November Ballot

It seems almost certain that three questions will appear on Maine's statewide ballot on Tuesday, November 4. The first will be a people's veto question. *The Fed Up With Taxes Coalition*, which includes the Maine Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, and beverage distributors, delivered petitions containing 74,533 signatures certified by city and town clerks as valid, to overturn a law passed by the Legislature during the 2nd Session to raise taxes on beer, wine and soda to help fund the Dirigo Health Program. That number of signatures far exceeds the required number of 55,087.

The second will be a citizens' initiative question. In February, Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap announced that he had certified 59,504 valid petition signatures, enough to place *An Act to Allow a Casino in Oxford County* before the 123rd Legislature during its Second Session. Following an April 2 hearing, the Legal and Veteran's Affairs Committee voted not to send the bill to the full Legislature. Thus, pursuant to the Constitution, the initiative will appear on the November 4 ballot. It will read as follows: "Do you want to allow a certain Maine company to have the only casino in Maine, to be located in Oxford County, if part of the revenue is used to fund specific state programs?"

The third question will be a bond issue concerning drinking water and wastewater management. It will ask the voters if they favor a \$3.4 million bond issue to support drinking water programs and the construction of wastewater treatment facilities. If the bond issue is approved, a \$17 million federal match is available.

For the latest information on ballot questions, see the Maine Secretary of State's website at www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec.

- Michelle Small
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