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WAIT!

This guide ONLY contains information about local candidates and questions on the ballot in PORTLAND.

For information about statewide candidates and questions - such as the candidates for Governor, U.S. Senate or U.S. Representative - pick up the Statewide Voter Guide.
About this Guide

This voter guide is for people who vote in the City of Portland. The guide has information on candidates and questions on the ballot in Portland.

*Voters in Portland will also be voting on statewide candidates and ballot questions. Information on those elections is contained in our Easy-to-Read Voter Guide for Statewide Candidates and Issues.*

The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund is pleased to distribute 10,000 copies of this Portland voter guide for the 2018 general 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 of Maine Education Fund. 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 and the statewide guide are also available online at lwvme.org
Maine State Senators write and pass laws for the state of Maine. They share this job with the Members of the House of Representatives. Senators also approve appointments to state agencies and state judges chosen by the governor.

The State of Maine is divided into 35 senatorial districts. The districts are based on the number of people in each district. Voters can elect a member of the State Senate for up to four terms or eight years total. Senators must be at least 25 years of age and a citizen of the United States for at least five years. They must be living in Maine for at least one year and living in their district for at least three months.

**Term (years until next election):** 2 years

**Salary:** $14,271 (1st year), $10,158 (2nd year)

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**Candidates — District 27**

**Crystal Canney**

Independent Candidate

**Current Job:** CEO, The Knight Canney Group  
**Hometown:** Portland, Maine  
**Website:** VoteCanney.com

**Statement:** "There is so much at stake in our state and partisanship has contributed to a growing divide. I have been a reporter asking tough questions and on the leadership team for Governor Baldacci and U.S. Senator Angus King. Doing the work in Augusta, representing the people, would be an honor."

**Experience:** "Under Governor Baldacci – I served as his communications director and the Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. The budget is the state’s largest policy document. I have also run 2 small businesses and understand the need to grow small business in Maine."

**Goals:**
- Healthcare prioritization
- Ensure an appropriate safety net for our most vulnerable – with an emphasis on our children and seniors
- Ensure the economy is prosperous for all people

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**Benjamin Chipman**

Democratic Party Candidate

**Current Job:** Small business owner  
**Hometown:** Portland, Maine  
**Website:** VoteChipman.com

**Statement:** "We must make sure everyone has access to health care, quality education, and economic opportunities and we need to make sure nobody goes without basic necessities. I would like to continue using my experience and leadership skills to deliver results on these and other important issues."

**Experience:** "I have over 20 years of public policy experience advocating for important issues here in Portland and at the state level. I was elected and served on the Portland Charter Commission 2009-2010, State Representative 2010-2016, and State Senator 2016-present."

**Goals:**
- Expand access to health care and create a system that covers everyone
- Create an economy that works for everyone
- Respect the will of the voters by defending and implementing laws passed at the ballot box

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**Heather Sanborn**

Democratic Party Candidate

**Current Job:** Co-Owner, Rising Tide Brewing Company  
**Hometown:** Portland, Maine  
**Website:** HeatherSanbornForMaine.com

**Statement:** "I want to make Maine a place where our kids will be able to thrive – receiving a world-class education, finding a great job, and raising their families here. I see a bright future for Maine and am working to put in place the plans we need to get there."

**Experience:** "I have served in the Maine House as a leading voice on health care reform and renewable energy policy. I also have experiences as a former public school teacher, an attorney, a small business owner, and a mom that I bring to the table each day in Augusta."

**Goals:**
- Ensuring Mainers have access to affordable, high quality healthcare
- Advocating for clean energy solutions, like solar power and electric cars
- Making sure the state pays its fair share of public education costs
Members of the Maine House of Representatives write and pass laws for the state of Maine. They share this job with Maine Senators. Bills that raise money for any state government program start in the House and must also be passed by the Senate.

The State of Maine is divided into 151 legislative districts. The districts are based on the number of people in each district. Voters can elect a member of the Maine State House of Representatives for up to four terms or eight years total. Representatives must be at least 21 years of age and a citizen of the United States for at least five years. They must be living in Maine for at least one year and living in their district for at least three months.

Term (years until next election): 2 years

Salary: $14,271 (1st year), $10,158 (2nd year)

Candidates — District 36

Michael Brennan

Current Job: Director of Special Projects at Common Dreams
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: none

Statement: "This election is about the future of Maine. Major issues related to workforce development, education, health care and climate change have not been adequately addressed. We need fewer children in our child welfare system, more substance use treatment, and increased access to educational opportunities."

Experience: "Eight years as a State Representative, Chair of the Education Committee and Joint Select Committee on Substance Use. Five years as a State Senator, Senate Majority Leader, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. Mayor of Portland for four years. Adjunct faculty member at USM and UNE”

Goals: "If elected, three of my goals will be to expand health coverage to all citizens, fully fund K-12 education and address climate change issues. Property tax reform is also a major priority."

Samuel P. Ledue

Current Job: Site Location Analyst
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: none

Candidate did not respond to requests for information.
**Maine State Representative**

**Candidates — District 37**

Jane E. Frey
- **Current Job:** no information available
- **Hometown:** Portland, Maine
- **Website:** none

Republican Party Candidate

Candidate dropped out after ballots were printed.

Richard Farnsworth
- **Current Job:** Retired/State Representative
- **Hometown:** Portland, Maine
- **Website:** facebook.com/RichardFarnsworthforMaineHouse

Democratic Party Candidate

**Experience:** “Besides the experience of holding office, my work experience has been an invaluable component in what I can offer voters. That experience has been over 45 years of management in human services serving individuals with developmental disability and their families.”

**Goals:**
- Working toward universal PreK for young children
- Achieving an effective system for treating substance use disorder
- Providing housing and support services for Maine’s homeless population

Justin Benjamin Pollard
- **Current Job:** President, Pollard Builders
- **Hometown:** Portland, Maine
- **Website:** Pollard2018.com

Independent Candidate

**Statement:** “I am running for State Representative because I am deeply concerned about the deep divisions in our society between citizens with different political perspectives. As an open-minded listener who has the ability to understand and reconcile different perspectives, I hope to work toward solutions that bring Mainers together.”

**Experience:** “As the president of a construction company, I have firsthand experience of the challenges and opportunities facing small business owners. I have studied conflict resolution and am trained as a mediator. My compassion and empathy for people and my love of nature inspire me to work for a better world.”

**Goals:**
- Improve workforce training programs for careers with demand for employees
- Improve Mainers’ health through education and work toward universal coverage
- Make Maine a leader in sustainability by conserving more land and promoting organic agriculture
**Maine State Representative**

**Candidate — District 38**

Matthew Moonen

**Current Job:** Executive Director, Equality Maine  
**Hometown:** Portland, Maine  
**Website:** none

*Candidate did not respond to requests for information.*

**Democratic Party Candidate**

**Candidates — District 39**

Michael Sylvester

**Current Job:** Small Business Owner  
**Hometown:** Peaks Island, Maine  
**Website:** none  
**Statement:** “I was the only Democratic Socialist elected to state office in 2016. What I mean by Democratic Socialism is that you don’t have to ask what your government is doing for you because you had a say in the decisions rather then having all the decisions made behind closed doors.”

**Experience:** “I am the sitting representative in District 39. I served on the Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee in the 128th and I was the Chair of the Progressive Caucus.”

**Goals:**  
- Make decision making more transparent, accessible and participatory.  
- Help and legislators to think more like organizers on justice issues rather then waiting to be organized.  
- Pass important economic and environmental legislation to help Mainers feed, house and have healthcare for themselves and their family.

**Democratic Party Candidate**

Peter Doyle

**Current Job:** Software Developer  
**Hometown:** Portland, Maine  
**Website:** none

*Candidate did not respond to requests for information.*

**Republican Party Candidate**
Maine State Representative

★ Candidate — District 40

Rachel Talbot Ross

Current Job: Director, Martin Luther King Fellows
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: none

Statement: "I believe in work that helps people of all ages, religions, races and life styles get an equal chance to achieve their goals and able to make choices about their own lives without causing harm to others."

Experience:

Goals:
- Help people get care for their health without fear of paying for it.
- Get money for schools so people of all ages can learn and grow.
- Make changes so people do not go to jail/prison.

★ Candidate — District 41

Erik Clark Jorgensen

Current Job: Legislator, Foundation Employee, Consultant
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: ErikJorgensen.org

Statement: "I am running for my fourth (and final) term in the Maine House. I have tried to be responsive to my constituents, and have fought to assure that the special needs of Portland are met at the state level, while also working for policies that keep Maine green, educated and compassionate."

Experience: "Before my election I spent 25 years as an administrator in Maine’s nonprofit and educational sectors. In Augusta I have served six years on the Appropriations Committee, which writes Maine’s multi-billion-dollar budget. I have seen and come to know a lot about Maine’s economy, its social needs, its educational resources, health care, environment and government."

Goals: "My priorities are for a fair and reasonable state budget that does not hurt Portland, solid environmental protections including clean energy, and continuing to advance Maine’s public education, from pre-K through community college and the university system."
Maine State Representative

Candidates — District 42

Susan Abercrombie

Current Job: IT Professional (Retired)
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: none

Candidate did not respond to requests for information.

Benjamin Collings

Current Job: Political & Business Consultant
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: none

Statement: “Lifelong Labor Democrat, want to do more to decrease corporate and lobbyist influence over the Democratic Party and Party Leadership. Term limits in Maine have pushed the balance of power away from legislators and towards lobbyists and executive. Everyone in Maine deserves freedom and respect. Augusta needs bold reform.”

Experience: “Since very young, my Mom had me at events for ERA and “anti-nukes”. Helped a local woman run for legislature when I was ten. Have worked every level of campaigns from city council to Presidential, in Maine and nationwide. Advocate for Tribes, immigrants, unions and many disenfranchised.”

Goals:
- Tax reform, include rolling back current Governor's policy his first session in office
- More resources for education, early childhood to post secondary
- Health care reform that will include better care for addicted and mentally ill

Candidate — District 43

William Crockett

Current Job: no information available
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: none

Candidate did not respond to requests for information.
Cumberland County Commissioner

County Commissioners are responsible for the budget of the County and hire people to perform the duties of the County. Cumberland County has five County Commissioners. County Commissioners issue bonds, manage county parks and, in Cumberland County, the Cross Insurance Arena, and operate regional programs that provide social services, trash collection and disposal, water quality protection, and emergency management.

Term (years until next election): 4 years
Salary: $10,771 a year

Candidate — District 3

Stephen Gorden

Current Job: County Commissioner, consultant, semi-retired
Hometown: North Yarmouth, Maine
Website: none
Statement: "Steve's organization confidentially advised a select group of water and wastewater utility boards and chief executive officers on strategic and structural organizational issues; assisted with initiating open market strategies within the public sector."

Experience: "Steve served many national public boards and was President of the American Water Works Association, a 57,000-member organization, was Chairman of the Water Utility Council, responsible for national water legislation, and brought forth the trillion-dollar infrastructure issue. Steve holds a BSChE and MBA from UMO and UNH, respectively."
Goals: "To promote a government that serves the voters with (1) an increasing quality of life through responsibility, transparency and trust; (2) positive employee involvement; and (3) continuous improvement with innovative and data-driven decisions. Example: Sponsor the accessibility of fiber-optic broadband for the citizenry."

Candidate — District 4

Thomas Coward

Current Job: Lawyer, Real Estate Broker, Educator
Hometown: South Portland, Maine
Website: none
Statement: "As I have gotten so much from my local community, I believe that I must do my part to make our community better in any way I can. Being involved in local government is the best and most challenging way for me to contribute."

Experience: "I have helped people solve problems as an attorney for 37 years. As City councillor and Mayor, I advocated for needed projects and programs to improve the community. I've been a Commissioner for 6 years. I represent Cumberland County at the Maine County Commissioners Association, where I'm now President."
Goals:
- Stabilize State funding for the County Jail to improve conditions and help reduce property taxes
- Expand County support for recreational opportunities beyond the Civic Center
- Bring broadband Internet access to underserved parts of the County

William Holmes

Current Job: Emergency Communications Director
Hometown: Westbrook, Maine
Website: none
Statement: "I lead by example. I help when needed and take charge when required. I consider myself to be both creative and sensible in my approach to employee relations and policy development. I have faith in God, value integrity, am a fiscal conservative and socially moderate. I've had always been Pro-Choice."

Experience: "My career includes 37 years as a leader in the Public Safety profession. Twenty one years as a member of the Sheriffs Office and 16 years as the County's 9-1-1 Director. I have a great deal of experience in: Employee relations, Policy Development, Labor Negotiations, Regional Community Partnerships"
Goals:
- To serve with integrity
- To develop additional regional community partnerships
- To be a good steward with taxpayer dollars
Cumberland County Commissioner

Candidate — District 5

James Cloutier

Current Job: Attorney
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: None

Statement: "The phrase I believe captures the goals I have for our democracy, including county government is "our government exists to assure the weak are secure and the strong are just." Cumberland County government has the potential to be a powerful regional entity delivering better service to our citizens at lower costs."

Experience: "39 years as a practicing attorney in Portland. 10 years as county commissioner. 10 years as Portland City Councilor, former Mayor. 6 years as Board member Maine Turnpike Authority, including as Vice Chairman. Numerous boards and commissioners."

Goals:
- Improve regional services to citizens
- Initiate targeted improved educational opportunities
- Promote "buy local" trade and agriculture
Cumberland County District Attorney

A district attorney is the chief prosecutor for the County. The district attorney leads a staff of prosecutors called assistant district attorneys. District attorneys investigate all crimes in the district except murder, which is handled by the state Attorney General. They decide on whether to prosecute an offender. District attorneys can offer plea deals and conduct grand jury investigations.

Term (years until next election): 4 years
Salary: $164,088 a year

Candidates — District 5

Randall Bates
Republican Party Candidate

Current Job: Attorney
Hometown: Yarmouth, Maine
Website: none

Candidate dropped out after ballots were printed.

Jon Gale
Democratic Party Candidate

Current Job: Criminal Defense Attorney, Former Prosecutor
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: JonGaleForDA.com
Statement: “Leadership is being effective in doing justice, by example and by guiding others to do the same. Lawyering for 23+ years, as a prosecutor, and then in defense, I fight for what is just. The law must be blind to gender, race, sexual preference, economic status, and physical/mental ability.”

Experience: “I’ve tried relatively minor cases to homicides, from both sides, prosecutor and defense attorney. I’ve represented people from all socio-economic backgrounds. I have worked closely with victims, both as an ADA and as private counsel. Most of my work has been in right here in Cumberland County, beginning in 1994.”

Goals:
- Increase public safety, focusing on common drivers of criminal behavior: substance abuse, mental health, chronic poverty
- Bail reform; address inequities in minority convictions/incarceration
- Greater utilization of restorative justice and diversion programs to reduce repeat offenses

Jonathan Sahrbeck
Independent Candidate

Current Job: Cumberland County Assistant District Attorney
Hometown: Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Website: VoteSahrbeck.com
Statement: “As a prosecutor, it’s my daily duty to distinguish between people who make mistakes and dangerous individuals who get caught. As District Attorney, I’ll strive for justice while acting with compassion in tackling our biggest public safety risks — opioid abuse, domestic violence, elder and child abuse, and sex trafficking.”

Experience: “I’ve dedicated my career to upholding public safety. I have more prosecutorial experience than either opponent and specific experience handling crimes involving drugs, domestic violence, juveniles, and sex trafficking. Stephanie Anderson, our current District Attorney, endorses me as the candidate most qualified to take over the office upon her retirement.”

Goals:
- Increase awareness and prevention in our fight against the opioid epidemic
- Protect the public against violent offenders by addressing flaws in the bail code
- Increasing awareness to fight sex trafficking, elder abuse, and child abuse
Cumberland County Judge of Probate

The Judge of Probate has jurisdiction over estates and trusts, adoptions and name changes, guardianship, and protective proceedings. This court decides cases without a jury.

Term (years until next election): 4 years
Salary: $67,049 a year

Candidate

Paul Aranson
Current Job: Attorney, Musician
Hometown: Scarborough, Maine
Website: facebook.com/Aranson4ProbateJudge

Statement: "Judge of Probate hears cases involving guardianships, child and adult, conservatorships, adoptions, name changes and probate of wills. It is extremely important to be fair in deciding cases, understand human behavior, know the law and the rules of court, and prompt action. I will apply these qualities to this position."

Experience:

Goals:
• Be a good listener
• Treat citizens with respect
• Remember at all times who you work for

Cumberland County Sheriff

The Cumberland County Sheriff provides law enforcement services for all towns of Cumberland County that do not have their own municipal law enforcement agency. The Sheriff is responsible for the Cumberland County jail and its prisoners.

Term (years until next election): 4 years
Salary: $97,939 a year

Candidate

Kevin Joyce
Current Job: Sheriff of Cumberland County
Hometown: Standish, Maine
Website: none

Statement: "The Sheriff's role is to serve ALL constituents, ensuring the laws of the state are enforced, but done without violating individual Constitutional rights. Equally important, making sure that we utilize the jail for what it was intended and not a human warehouse for individuals who have mental illness/addiction or homelessness."

Experience: "Currently the 50th Sheriff of Cumberland County. I am seeking my third term as Sheriff and have spent my complete career at the Sheriff's Office. I am a graduate of the FBI National Academy, have a Masters in Business Administration and sit on several profession boards/member of community organizations."

Goals:
• Substance Use Disorders: Continue to work on Opioid crisis
• Jail Reform: Ensure that we are jailing those who are a threat to the community or flight risk
• Mental Illness: Prioritization of needed services
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 offices are nonpartisan, meaning candidates do not represent any political party.

**Candidates — District 1**

**Matthew Coffey**

- **Current Job:** Self employed landscaper
- **Hometown:** Portland, Maine
- **Website:** none
- **Statement:** “Throughout my adult life I have worked tirelessly for the good of our community. I have worked on projects such as: protesting unnecessary and/or immoral wars; helping to feed and clothe the homeless community and the working poor; and trying to give a voice to the people who feel that they have no voice.”

- **Experience:** “I have run for City Council before. Not a single person I have heard of is prepared for the first office they are elected to. I will bring a commitment to make Portland a better place to live for the average citizen and a better place for businesses to thrive in.”

- **Goals:**
  - To encourage private business to invest in the people of Portland
  - To reduce the amount of homeless and working poor in the community
  - To put an end to well intentioned, but unnecessary governmental overreach into our civil liberties

**Belinda Ray**

- **Current Job:** Accounts & Administration Manager / City Councilor
- **Hometown:** East Bayside neighborhood of Portland, Maine
- **Website:** BelindaRay.me
- **Statement:** “Democracy is a dialogue. All topics, no matter how difficult, must be discussed with civility, integrity, and respect for differing opinions. I vigorously research issues and work hard to make decisions that consider people of different races, classes, cultures, gender identities, and political views.”

- **Experience:** “I’ve lived in Portland for 20+ years, raised two children here, started a neighborhood organization, and served three years on the City Council. I serve on the Boards of METRO, the Portland Public Library, and Greater Portland Council of Governments, and I’ve helped manage two successful small businesses in Portland.”

- **Goals:**
  - Build a regional coalition to address affordable housing, homelessness, and substance use disorder
  - Increase public transit and active transportation options and infrastructure
  - Continue to foster civil discourse around complex issues
# Portland City Council

## Candidates — District 2

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<th>Spencer Thibodeau</th>
<th>Traditional Ballot</th>
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| **Current Job:** Attorney at Verrill Dana<br>**Hometown:** Portland, Maine<br>**Website:** SpencerForCouncil.com | **Experience:** "As I complete my first term on the Council (Sustainability and Transportation Committee Chair), I have delivered results for District 2—including Portland's first protected bike lane, more funding for pedestrian infrastructure, Council meetings live-streamed on social media, establishing the Office of Economic Opportunity, and securing funding for our schools."
| **Statement:** "As a Portland kid who struggled academically growing up, I have always had to outwork others to succeed—a value I have brought to the Council. I strive to be the hardest worker in the room. I am also committed to accessibility and always strive to respond within 24 hours.” | **Goals:**
- Expanding access to alternative forms of mobility (bike lanes, sidewalks)
- Supporting efforts to make Portland more affordable, particularly housing
- Working with the School Board to address school funding challenges |

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<tr>
<th>Jon Torsch</th>
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| **Current Job:** Power System Data Engineer<br>**Hometown:** Portland, Maine<br>**Website:** JonTorschForPortland.me | **Experience:** "Holding office should be a public service, not a career path. I grew up working class and attended Maine's public schools through to my engineering degrees. A public education is enough to prepare anyone for a Portland City Council seat. If you disagree, elect me, and together we'll fix it."
| **Statement:** "I'm a Democratic Socialist, which means that I believe in extending American democracy to the economy in general, and to the workplace specifically. When working class people control how our labor is used, we can contribute more fully to - and benefit more from - the prosperity of our city.” | **Goals:**
- Build worker power through union jobs, worker cooperatives, better wages, and benefits
- Affirm housing justice through renters' protections and progressive property taxes
- Reinvest in our public commons: public schools, transit, open data, and clean elections |

## Candidates — At Large

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<tr>
<th>Joey Brunelle</th>
<th>Traditional Ballot</th>
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| **Current Job:** Self-employed - web design & development<br>**Hometown:** Kennebunk, Maine<br>**Website:** BrunelleForPortland.org | **Experience:** "I have been fighting for affordable housing, action on climate change, and good schools for years. I know how to bring people together. I have been a business owner, a landlord, a renter, and a taxpayer in Portland. I come from a family of immigrants from Quebec and Lebanon."
| **Statement:** "I believe that all people in Portland should have good schools, good jobs and affordable housing. I believe that we must fight climate change. I believe that we should welcome all immigrants. I believe that government should be transparent and accessible. Only by working together can we do these things.” | **Goals:**
- Building more public, affordable housing for Portland workers and families
- Making sure that our schools and teachers get the money and support they need
- Improving the busses, expanding bike lanes, and reducing traffic |

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<tr>
<th>Nick Mavodones</th>
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| **Current Job:** Operations Manager, Casco Bay Lines<br>**Hometown:** Yarmouth, Maine<br>**Website:** NickForCouncil.com | **Experience:** "I formerly chaired the Portland School Board, participated actively in the PTO organizations at my children's schools, and am finishing my seventh term on the City Council. I am a graduate of the Institute for Civic Leadership and currently chair the Council Finance Committee and the Hall School Building Committee."
| **Statement:** "I formerly worked as a ferry captain and served as my union's shop steward / negotiator. I have served on the Council since 1997, including four terms as Mayor, and feel an obligation now more than ever to continue my public service and provide balanced, collaborative, and civil leadership.” | **Goals:**
- Continue leadership on fiscal stability and tax relief
- Continue to support efforts to increase affordable housing in Portland
- Continue to lead on supporting clean energy programs |
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 offices are nonpartisan, meaning candidates do not represent any political party.

Term (years until next election): 3 years
Salary: $8,324.06 for the Board Chair, $6,450.24 for other members

★ Candidate - District 1

Abusana Michael Bondo

Current Job: Self employed, Co-Founder of In Her Presence
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: facebook.com/micky.portlandschoolboard

Statement: "My personal leadership is the competency to accomplish a task effectively, self-confident, determined, adaptable and Perceptive. I believe that individual is unique and the best way to educate our students is to expose them to available opportunities in the district and value connections among people."

Experience: "I have navigated and supported my 5 children through Portland Public School as a partner. I'm also a Lead Parent Organizer with Portland Empowered, a program based out of Muskie School of Public Service. We create opportunities for engagement between schools and families."

Goals:
- Expanding universal Pre-K programs for all children
- Increasing Diversity in teaching and administrative staff to reflect our students
- Support partnership between our school and the business communities across the city
Portland Board of Public Education

Candidates — District 2

Emily Figdor
Current Job: Campaign Director, MoveOn
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: EmilyForSchoolBoard.com
Statement: "I believe deeply in the power of public education to transform children's lives. That's how it was for my family, and that's how it should be for all children and families. I'm a strong advocate who engages the community in the political process to make a difference for children."
Experience: "I have a 20-year career in public policy and organizing to make the world a better place. I led the winning campaign to renovate Portland's four rundown elementary schools, after 23 years of delays by the city. My daughters attend Reiche and King, and I co-chair the Reiche PTO."
Goals:
- Pass universal access to pre-K
- Secure the budgets necessary to meet the district's five-year plan to improve achievement and equity
- Ensure the city renovates all four rundown elementary schools, including Reiche

Jeanne Swanton
Current Job: Project Management and Bookkeeping services for several local businesses
Hometown: West End neighborhood of Portland, Maine
Website: SwantonForSchoolBoard.org
Statement: "I love Portland and am passionate about our public schools. I believe in providing students with the tools needed to strive academically, and to be responsible and engaged community members. I believe in working hard, being informed, collaborating and the importance of community. Let's roll up our sleeves, listen and, work together."
Experience: "A decade of volunteering, including leadership in Reiche's PTO, WENA board member, and co-founder of Protect Our Neighborhood Schools. I've developed strong working relationships with school board, city council and community leaders. Coupled with 20 years of financial experience, I have the skills, experience and temperament to make a difference."
Goals:
- Sound budgeting, collaboration, and academic equity
- Addressing the increasing financial challenge from reduced state funding
- Increasing collaboration and communication among all parties
- Ensuring every student's path to achieving academic success

Candidate — At Large

Sarah Thompson
Current Job: Nursing Student Placement Systems Administrator
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: none
Statement: "I am a strong advocate for Public Schools and am a product of the Portland Public School System. I believe that public education is tied to the vitality of our community. Public education celebrates and embraces all of our students and their individuality to help them reach their full potential."
Experience: "I am a product of the Portland Public Schools and have two children who are also graduates of PPS. I have served on the Portland Board of Public Education for the last 12 years. My experience and strong work ethic will continue to provide consistency and stability."
Goals:
- Align and sustain resources to meet district goals
- Continue to work with the community to improve student achievement
- Direct resources to help students feel accepted, safe and loved
Portland Water District Trustees

The Portland Water District provides public water services to the nearly 200,000 people in the cities of Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook, and the towns of Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gorham, Raymond, Scarborough, Windham, and Standish. The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Portland Water District. Much like a city council, the Board adopts a budget; approves the rates and charges for public services; establishes district-wide policies and plans; and appoints a general manager to administer the affairs of the organization. There are 11 elected members on the Board of Trustees, four of them elected from the City of Portland.

Portland Water District Trustee offices are nonpartisan, meaning candidates do not represent any political party.

Term (years until next election): 5 years  Salary: $100 per meeting, not to exceed $2,400 in one year

Candidates

Wayne Olson

Current Job: Principal, Solutions Economics. Consulting economist
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: http://solutionseconomics.com/expertise/wayne_olson
Statement: "My work experience has to do with the oversight of public utilities, which should serve me well if I become a Trustee. I hope to apply my background and training to learn about the issues and challenges facing the PWD and then help develop solutions that benefit PWD customers."


Goals: "I'm not aware of major problems with the PWD's service to its customers. The PWD should provide reliable service at a reasonable cost to customers consistent with best practice using open and transparent governance methods."

Kimberly Rich

Current Job: Portland Water District Trustee
Hometown: Portland, Maine
Website: KimRichPortland.com
Statement: "As a manager in nonprofit organizations for 35 years and now in public service, I strive to be an inclusive leader with crystal clear goals. I value excellent communication, responsive constituent service, and active listening. I am unflappable in the face of conflict but prefer civil discourse."

Experience: "Current PWD Trustee. Advocate for Portland's compliance with environmental protection (DEP) regulations at Ocean Avenue landfill. Founding board member, Blandings Park Wildlife Sanctuary, Biddeford, ME. Lake Advisory Board Member, White Bear Lake, MN. Supporter, South Portland's Clear Skies Initiative impacting aging oil pipeline adjacent to Sebago Lake."

Goals:
- Upholding the Water District's excellent record managing public water services since 1907
- Preserving our pristine drinking water source - Sebago Lake
- Supporting the District's employees who serve nearly 200,000 customers in our watershed
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 offices are nonpartisan, meaning candidates do not represent any political party.

**Term (years until next election):** 3 years  
**Salary:** none

### Candidates

#### Andrea Kelly-Rosenbern

- **Current Job:** no information available
- **Hometown:** Portland, Maine
- **Website:** none

Candidate did not respond to requests for information.

#### Devon Kraft

- **Current Job:** Personal Trainer, Behavioral Health Technician
- **Hometown:** Peaks Island, Maine
- **Website:** none

**Statement:** “Mainers’ hard work ethic is a heritage I embody. I navigate my day doing for others what I can, and go to sleep grateful for opportunities presented to me during the day. It's not often I dwell on how "hard" a task may be; I just do it.”

**Experience:** "I've gained most of my experience as the mother of two children and the wife to a Merchant Mariner who is often gone from home. I've also gained leadership and motivational skills through being a Personal Trainer and former small business owner."

**Goals:** "There is only one; to carry forth the will of the people of Peaks Island with civility."
Portland Question 1

Question:
“Do you favor the formation of a regional service center pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement for the Greater Sebago Education Alliance, as approved by the governing bodies of the parties thereto and the Commissioner of the Department of Education?”

What does this question mean?
In early 2018, Portland Public Schools began working with neighboring school administration units to form a regional service center. They have come to an agreement for the Greater Sebago Education Alliance Regional Service Center, which will provide joint purchasing, professional development, and staff development to its members. So far, 12 regional service centers, each with multiple districts, have made it past the initial benchmarks set by the State Department of Education to qualify for state funding. Under state law, a regional service center must receive voter approval.

Arguments for Yes

- Collaboration could increase efficiency and bring down prices for supplies and services to school districts. It could save money in the long run.
- By sharing training, schools can increase teacher skills and share best practices.
- Portland Public Schools would secure $92,101.20 of state money. If a town votes against joining, the service center will continue with the remaining members – but the town dropping out will lose some state education funds.

Arguments for No

- May weaken local control of schools.
- Puts financial pressure on school districts to go along.
- Creates another administrative body with its own bureaucracy and interests.
Portland Question 2

Question:
“Shall the City approve the charter amendment to Article IV, § 11, printed below?

“In addition to the reports required for municipal candidates by title 21-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, 42 day pre-election reports must be filed by municipal candidates no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 42nd day before the date on which a general election is held and must be completed as of the 49th day before that date.”

What does this question mean?
This requires candidates for city council, school board, and water district in Portland to make an additional report disclosing their campaign contributions and expenses 42 days before the election. Currently, no candidate reports are required between July 1 and 11 days before the election.

Arguments for Yes

- Voters in Portland elections would have a chance to learn where the money is coming from to support Portland candidates.

- Knowing where the money is coming from may help people understand who supports the candidate and why.

- This amendment brings Portland into alignment with Maine State requirements for state level candidates.

- Currently, municipal candidates are required to disclose their donors 11 days before the election. However, by that time many voters will have already cast early absentee ballots.

Arguments for No

- It’s more work for candidates. Candidates are already providing enough information.

- It’s more work for the City Clerk.

- The existing disclosure rule is enough.
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 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.

Donations to the LWVME Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) corporation, are tax-deductible where allowed by law.

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: lwyme.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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