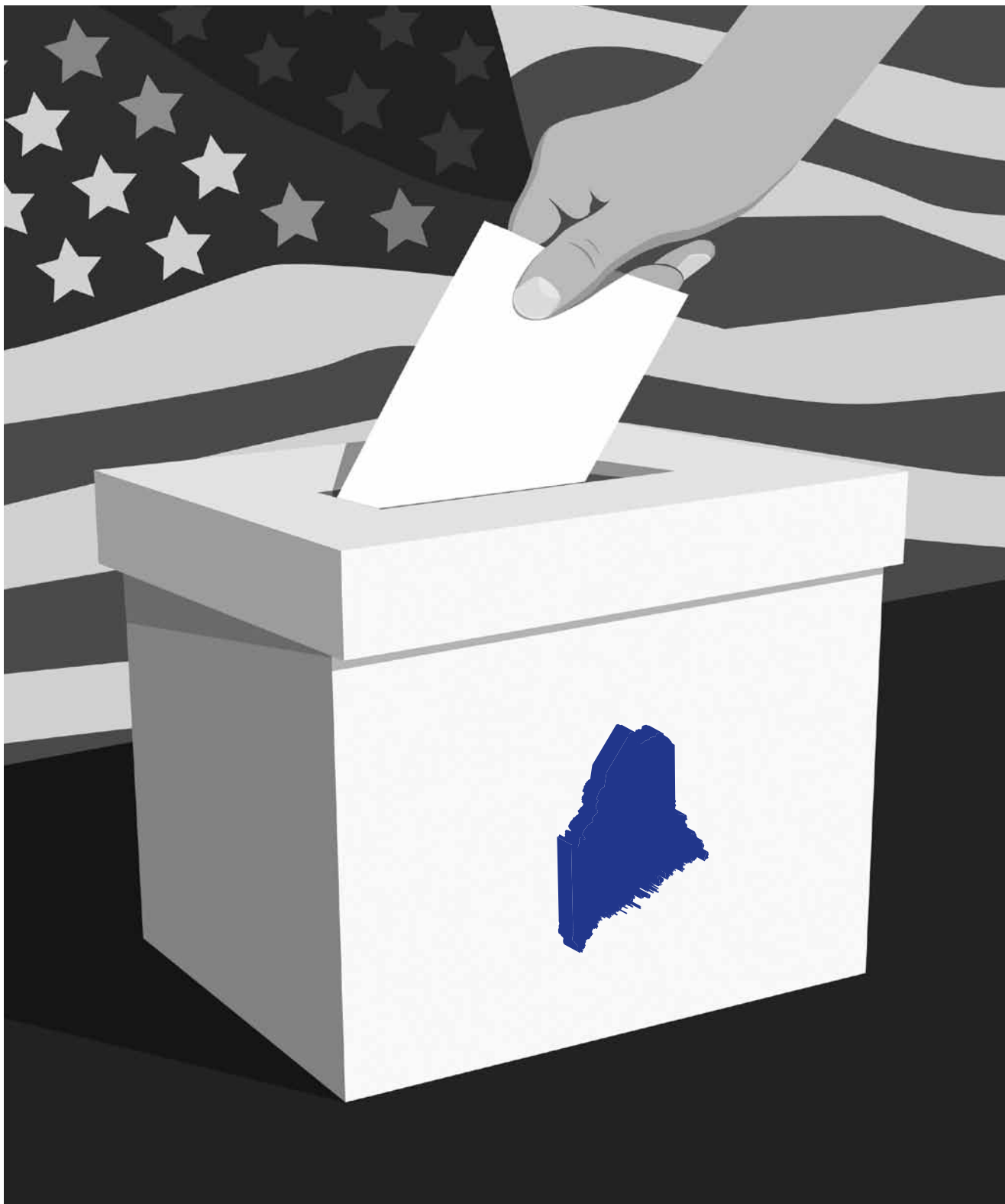


# Easy-to-Read Voter Guide

Maine General Election: November 6, 2012



## LOOK INSIDE

About This Guide	2
VOTE411	3
Why Vote?	4
Registering to Vote	5-6
How Do I Vote?	7-8
Accessible Voting System	9
Absentee Ballots	10-11
Things to Remember	12
Presidential Candidates	13-14
Senate Candidates	15-17
District 1 Candidates	18
District 2 Candidates	19
Ballot Questions	20-24
Thank You	24-28



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
EDUCATION FUND



## About this guide

**The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund produced this 2012 *Easy-to-Read Voter Guide*.** We printed and gave away 25,000 copies in Maine. Maine Adult Education helped make the guide easy to read.

The Voter Guide is **nonpartisan**. This means that the Voter Guide does not support or oppose any candidate, or promote any platform or position on the ballot questions.

All statements are provided directly by the candidate and not edited by the League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund. No candidate statements or explanations of ballot and bond issues express the views of the League or any of our distribution partners including any of the schools, nonprofit organizations, or agencies. The League of Women Voters of Maine never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.



## Questions and Copies of This Guide

The text is online at [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org).



If you have questions or would like more copies of the Guide, call 1-888-207-1839 or email us at [voterguide@lwvme.org](mailto:voterguide@lwvme.org).



# Vote411.org



We are excited to be working together, for the first time, with the U. S. League of Women Voters Education Fund to provide an online Voter Guide at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org). VOTE411.org offers details about candidates for President of the United States and for the U. S. Congress.

On VOTE411.org, candidates' positions can be compared side-by-side. The candidates' responses to questions may also be longer than in the printed guide.

Information about candidates for the Maine Legislature from Hancock County may also be found at VOTE411.org. For complete information on races for the Maine Legislature and for local offices and issues, see your town office or city hall for a sample ballot. You may also find a sample ballot and information about the candidates and issues on your ballot at [http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup\\_voter\\_info](http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup_voter_info)

# VOTING IS IMPORTANT



## Why vote?

You can help make important changes in the way your city, state, and country are run. This guide covers federal and statewide races and ballot issues.

Maine voters will choose:

- President of the United States
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Member of the House of Representatives

Voters will also decide about one citizen initiative and four bond issues.

The ballot questions are listed in the Guide:

- In the order they are on the ballot
- Explanation of the question
- The reasons for voting YES or NO

In some cities and towns, you may also be asked to vote on candidates for local offices or to vote on local issues. Ask your town office for a sample ballot that will give all local candidates and local ballot initiatives.



## Is my vote private?

Yes, your vote is private.

# REGISTERING TO VOTE IN MAINE

## ★ When is Election Day?

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 6, 2012.**

## ★ Who Can Vote?

You must first register to vote. You can register to vote in Maine if:

- You are age 17 or older. (You have to be 18 by Election Day to vote.)
- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You live in Maine.

## ★ How do I register to vote?



- You must fill out a voter registration card. These boxes must be filled out:
  - You are a U.S. citizen
  - You will be 18 years old on or before the Election Day
- You must write your full legal name, home address (not a P.O. Box), date of birth, and signature.
- Some people need to keep their address private for safety. You can keep your address private by contacting the Secretary of State's office at 207-624-7650.
- When you register for the first time, bring an I.D. and a utility bill that shows your name and address.



## When can I register to vote?

You can register to vote anytime, even on Election Day.



## Where do I register to vote?

You can register to vote:

- By mail. It needs to be received by your City Clerk's office by October 16, 2012.
- In person at your town office or city hall during regular business hours, even on Election Day.
- At any branch office of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles by October 9, 2012.
- At voting places on Election Day.

To register to vote, you need to prove who you are and where you live.

- Bring identification and a bill with your address. (example: driver's license and electric bill)



## What is a political party?

- A **political party** is a group of people who share the same ideas about how the government should work.
- When you register to vote, you can join a political party. It is free. You may also change your party registration.
- Examples of political parties include: Democratic, Maine Green Independent, and Republican.
- You do not have to join a party to vote.



## Where Do I Go To Vote?

- Every town and city has its own place where people can vote. These are called voting places, polls, or polling places.
- Call your town office or city hall to find out where you should go. (See page 11 for more information.)
- Voting places open between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., depending on the town or city. The opening time is not the same for all towns and cities. All voting places close at 8:00 p.m.



## 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 maybe your address. Your name will be on a list if you are registered to vote.
- The election clerk will give you a ballot.
- You will go into a private voting booth and complete your ballot.
- You will put the ballot in the ballot box or a machine.



## Do I Need An I.D. (identification card)?

- If you are a first-time voter, or you have moved, you should bring your I.D. and proof of your address. (example: driver's license and electric bill)
- Don't worry. No eligible voter can be turned away.



## How Do I Fill Out The Ballot?

- A ballot is the piece of paper where you mark your vote.
- Different towns and cities use different types of ballots.
- Each ballot tells you how to mark your choices.
- If you have a question, ask an election official.
- Check your ballot.
- You do not have to vote on everything. Only the parts you vote on will count.
- If you make a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot.



## What If I Can't Read The 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.
- You can use the Accessible Voting System (AVS). (See page 9)
- An election worker can help you with your ballot.
- Your employer or union official cannot help you vote.





## Other ways to vote: At the voting place or absentee



### Is there another way to vote at the voting place?

- Yes. Accessible Voting System (AVS) lets you vote by phone at the voting place.
- Go to the voting place and tell the election clerk you want to use AVS.
- The election worker will set up an AVS phone for you to use. You will hear the voting questions. Vote yes or no by pressing keys on the phone or by pressing a large yellow button.
- A printed copy of your completed ballot will be faxed to you at the AVS phone.
- You put your ballot in the ballot box or machine.



## Do I have to go to the voting place on Election Day to vote?

- No. If you are registered to vote, you can ask for an **absentee ballot**. You must do so by November 1, 2012.
- If you ask for an absentee ballot after November 1st, you must complete an application. You must give a reason you cannot go to your polling place on Election Day.

These are the only reasons that you can choose:

- (1) You will be out of town all day on Election Day.
- (2) You are ill or disabled and cannot leave home.
- (3) You live on an island and cannot get transportation on Election Day.



## What is absentee voting?

Absentee voting lets you vote at home and mail your absentee ballot to your town clerk, or you can complete an absentee ballot in person at your town office or city hall. The town or city clerk must receive absentee ballots by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day for your vote to count.



## How do I get an absentee ballot?

- Ask for an absentee ballot from your town/city hall.
- 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 town/city clerk's 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 for every race or question.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to your town/city clerk's office so that it arrives before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.



## How do I find and contact my town or city clerk?

You can find the address and phone number for your town/city clerk at:

<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.htm>

You can also contact:

Office of the Secretary of State

Division of Elections

101 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0101

207-624-7650

Email: [cec.elections@maine.gov](mailto:cec.elections@maine.gov)

Website: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/>



## Is there a way to see the ballot before the election?

You can print it from the website:

[http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup\\_voter\\_info](http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup_voter_info)



## Things to remember

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

- The election clerk will help you. You may be sent to a different voting place.
- You may need to register to vote. (See page 5 for more information.)

### **What if I need help at the voting place?**

Ask an election official 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. They can also help you use AVS. You will not be the only one with questions!

### **How can I avoid the crowds?**

- Go to the voting place when it is less crowded: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- You can vote at home with an absentee ballot. Your absentee ballot must get to your town office or city hall before 8:00 p.m. on November 6, 2012.

# US Presidential Candidates

## Gary Johnson



**Website:** [www.garyjohnson2012.com](http://www.garyjohnson2012.com)

**Email:** [mail@garyjohnson2012.com](mailto:mail@garyjohnson2012.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (801) 303-7922

**Hometown:** Salt Lake City, UT

**Party:** Libertarian

### Personal Statement

After having built a successful business, I entered public service by asking the people of New Mexico to give me an opportunity to bring common sense leadership to the Office of Governor. I pledged to reduce taxes, reduce the size of state government

### Goals

1. Balance the Federal Budget.
2. Cut Federal spending by the amount necessary to eliminate deficit spending without raising taxes.
3. Remove the United States from unnecessary and costly foreign wars and interventions, including Afghanistan.



## Barack Obama

**Website:** [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (312) 698-3670

**Hometown:** Chicago, IL

**Party:** Democratic

### Personal Statement

The first bill I signed as President was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. It was a big step toward making sure every worker receives equal pay for equal work. There is more work to be done but together we'll keep America and Maine moving forward.

### Goals

As a nation, our challenges can be met by rebuilding the middle class and our economy on a stronger foundation. I have laid out a set of concrete goals on manufacturing, energy, education, national security, and the deficit that will create jobs, expand opportunity, and create an economy built to last.



## Mitt Romney

**Website:** [www.mittromney.com](http://www.mittromney.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (857) 288-3500

**Hometown:** Boston, MA

**Party:** Republican

### Personal Statement

I am running for president because I believe in America and know that our best days are still ahead. I will make it my priority to create 12 million new jobs and get our economy going again.

### Goals

The first priority of a Romney Administration will be to create 12 million new jobs and get our economy going again. We must get our fiscal house in order. President Obama has put our nation on an unsustainable course. As president, Mitt Romney will set the country on the path to a balanced budget. And he will ensure we have a military so strong that no adversary would want to test it.



## Jill Stein

**Website:** [www.jillstein.org](http://www.jillstein.org)

**Email:** [HQ@JillStein.org](mailto:HQ@JillStein.org)

**Hometown:** Madison, WI

**Party:** Green

### Personal Statement

We can't afford four more years of Wall Street bailouts and an economy for the superrich. We must guarantee every individual a job at a living wage, quality health care, tuition-free education, Social Security and a healthy climate and environment.

### Goals

I stand for a Green New Deal that will deliver:

1. A recession-proof economy that provides a job at a living wage for every American willing and able to work,
2. An economy based on clean, renewable energy,
3. Replacement of the predatory Wall Street banks with a public interest banking system.

# US Senate Candidates

## Danny Dalton



**Website:** [www.daltonsenate.com](http://www.daltonsenate.com)

**Email:** [danny@daltonsenate.com](mailto:danny@daltonsenate.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (801) 303-7922

**Hometown:** Brunswick, ME

**Party:** Non-Party

### Personal Statement

I believe that our Senate is failing to fulfill its obligation to provide oversight of our agencies. The Senate has the responsibility to confirm the appointment of leaders who effectively manage our government ensuring our tax dollars are spent wisely. As your next senator I will be truthful, trustworthy, transparent and ready to represent you....not a special interest group or powerful lobby.

### Goals

1. Reform our tax code
2. Continue to improve Wall Street Reform
3. Address the waste and mismanagement I saw during my 25 years of government service



## Cynthia Dill

**Website:** [www.cynthiadill.com](http://www.cynthiadill.com)

**Email:** [dillforussenate@gmail.com](mailto:dillforussenate@gmail.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (207) 767-7197

**Hometown:** Cape Elizabeth, ME

**Party:** Democratic

### Personal Statement

I am a middle class, working mother. I will fight for families and small businesses. I have a record of creating jobs in Maine. I will bring a strong progressive voice to the US Senate. I will work for the common good, our common wealth and a better future for our children.

### Goals

1. Jobs that pay a fair wage
2. Health care for all Americans
3. Strengthen public education



## Andrew Ian Dodge

**Website:** [www.dodgeforsenate.com](http://www.dodgeforsenate.com)

**Email:** [andrew@dodgeforsenate.com](mailto:andrew@dodgeforsenate.com)

**Hometown:** Harpswell, ME

**Party:** Endorsed by Libertarian Party of Maine.

Running as “Independent for Liberty”

### Personal Statement

I bring a unique perspective on the issues that mean the most to Mainers. I am fiscally prudent yet socially tolerant. I am against the War on Drugs, nation-building and limiting the rights of women to make decisions over their own bodies. I believe in limited government that gets out of the way of the

### Goals

1. To defend Maine voters decisions against Federal meddling whether it is on the question of medical cannabis or allowing gay marriage.
2. To eliminate the Federal deficit and debt by rationalizing Federal



## Angus King

**Website:** [www.angus2012.com](http://www.angus2012.com)

**Email:** [crauscher@angus2012.com](mailto:crauscher@angus2012.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (207) 607-4300

**Hometown:** Brunswick, ME

**Party:** Independent

### Personal Statement

We face serious issues - unemployment, threatened social systems, debt - while our government is paralyzed by partisan politics. We must try something different. I am not bound by a party - I make decisions on the merit of the issue after listening to all. I did it as Governor, and would as Senator.

### Goals

1. Improve the Economy with projects like rural broadband.
2. Address the Debt so we do not leave a burdensome legacy to our children.
3. Work to assure that Healthcare is both affordable and accessible.





## Charles Summers

**Website:** [www.summersformaine.com/](http://www.summersformaine.com/)

**Party:** Republican

**Campaign Phone:**

**Address:**

### Personal Statement

Candidate did not respond to our survey

### Goals

Candidate did not respond to our survey



## Stephen Woods

**Website:** [www.SteveWoods2012.com](http://www.SteveWoods2012.com)

**Party:** Independent

**Email:** [info@SteveWoods2012.com](mailto:info@SteveWoods2012.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (207) 781-0289

**Hometown:** Falmouth, Maine

### Personal Statement

I am the only business owner running for Senate. My wife and three children call Maine a special place because of the spirit and character of the people. The elections will generate contentious debate. Our current political climate makes our government 95% ineffective. I will work tirelessly to improve that climate.

### Goals

1. Economy. I will help create jobs in Maine and the country.
2. Education. I will work to improve education so we can compete globally.
3. Energy. I know we need to reduce our use of foreign energy.

# US Congress District 1 Candidates

## Jonathon Courtney



**Website:** [www.joncourtney.com](http://www.joncourtney.com)

**Party:** Republican

**Email:**

**Campaign Phone:**

**Address:**

### Personal Statement

Candidate did not respond to our survey

### Goals

Candidate did not respond to our survey



## Chellie Pingree

**Website:** [www.chelliepingree.com](http://www.chelliepingree.com)

**Party:** Democratic

**Email:** [campaign@pingreefocongress.com](mailto:campaign@pingreefocongress.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (207) 773-0155

**Hometown:** North Haven, ME

### Personal Statement

Maine people work hard for a living. We need more good paying jobs for Maine and we need to fight for our Maine businesses. We need to protect Medicare and Social Security, and make sure women have equal pay. And, we need to make sure our kids can get a good education.

### Goals

1. Good paying-jobs for Maine people
2. Fight for Maine small businesses
3. Protect Medicare and Social Security

# US Congress District 2 Candidates



## Michael Michaud

**Website:** [www.michaudforcongress.com](http://www.michaudforcongress.com)

**Party:** Democratic

**Email:** [greg@michaudforcongress.com](mailto:greg@michaudforcongress.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (207) 786-0220

**Hometown:** East Millinocket, ME

### Personal Statement

I have had the honor and privilege to serve Maine in Congress for the past 10 years. My background as a millworker and state legislator, has given me a valuable perspective when dealing with the many challenging issues that we face in Washington.

### Goals

1. I will support job creation and economic development for Maine.
2. I will continue to fight for increased funding for veterans' programs.
3. As a former millworker, I will led the fight for fairer trade deals.



## Kevin Raye

**Website:** [www.rayeformcongress.com](http://www.rayeformcongress.com)

**Party:** Republican

**Email:** [info@rayeforcongress.com](mailto:info@rayeforcongress.com)

**Campaign Phone:** (207) 200-7293

**Hometown:** Perry, Maine

### Personal Statement

In the Maine Senate, I was voted by my colleagues as “most likely to influence the other side of the aisle”. In Congress, I will work constructively with both parties to solve problems, reduce debt and encourage job creation and small business.

### Goals

1. Enact a balanced budget amendment.
2. Repeal ObamaCare and replace with bipartisan reforms.
3. Pass regulatory reform to reduce federal red tape for small businesses.

# 1

## Ballot question 1:

**“Do you want to allow the State of Maine to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples?”**

### What this question means:

Currently Maine defines a marriage as a relationship between a man and woman. This law would allow same-sex couples to obtain a marriage license in Maine. Maine would also accept same-sex marriages from other states.

#### Argument for **YES**:

- This law allows all qualified couples to marry and have the legal protections of marriage.
- Any clergy member or religious institution may refuse to participate on religious grounds.

#### Argument for **NO**:

- Marriage has historically been between a man and woman.
- This law would change the definition of marriage in Maine.

# 2

## Ballot question 2:

**Do you favor an \$11,300,000 bond issue to provide funds for capital to build a diagnostic facility for the University of Maine System; for capital improvements and equipment, including machine tool technology, for the Maine Community College System; and for capital improvements and equipment at the Maine Maritime Academy?**

### What this question means:

The state would borrow money in the amount of \$11,300,000 to support and improve facilities at the University of Maine System, Maine Community College System, and Maine Maritime Academy.

#### Argument for **YES**:

- Use of the bond funds could result in jobs and may help economic growth in the State of Maine.
- The bond will provide money to certain state colleges and universities in Maine.

#### Argument for **NO**:

- It would add \$11.3 million to Maine's debt.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.

# 3

## Ballot question 3:

**Do you favor a \$5,000,000 bond issue to purchase land and conservation easements statewide from willing sellers for public land and water access, conservation, wildlife or fish habitat and outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing and deer wintering areas, and to preserve working farmland and working waterfronts to be matched by at least \$5,000,000 in private and public contributions?**

### What this question means:

The state would borrow money in the amount of \$5,000,000 to help support purchasing land to preserve it for farming, fishing, wildlife, and outdoor recreation . Maine would pay \$5,000,000 and could be matched by at least \$5,000,000 in private and public contributions.

#### Argument for **YES**:

- It would help save Maine lands that are not developed. It would help save working farmland and waterfronts.
- Private and public money will help pay for the land. It will give Maine \$5 million to help pay for the land.

#### Argument for **NO**:

- It would add \$5 million to Maine's debt.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.

# 4

## Ballot question 4:

**Do you favor a \$51,500,000 bond issue for improvements to highways and bridges, local roads, airports and port facilities, as well as for funds for rail access, transit buses and the LifeFlight Foundation, which will make the State eligible for at least \$105,600,000 in federal and other matching funds?**

### What this question means:

The state would borrow money in the amount of \$51.5 million to help support repairs for highways and bridges and to provide trains, buses, and medical helicopters based at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor and Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. Maine would pay \$51,000,000, and the federal government would pay \$105,600,000.

#### Argument for **YES**:

- Use of the bond funds could result in jobs and may help economic growth in the State of Maine.
- This bond could improve public safety.
- The federal government will help pay for the work. It will give Maine \$105 million more.

#### Argument for **NO**:

- It would add \$51 million to Maine's debt.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.

# 5

## Ballot question 5:

**Do you favor a \$7,925,000 bond issue to be expended over 2 years for revolving loan funds for drinking water systems and for wastewater treatment facilities, which will make the State eligible to secure \$39,625,000 in federal grants?**

### What this question means:

The state would borrow money in the amount of \$7,925,000 to help support improving drinking water and wastewater treatment plants. Maine would pay \$7,925,000, and the federal government would pay \$39,625,000.

#### Argument for **YES**:

- Use of the bond funds could provide jobs and may help economic growth in the State of Maine.
- This bond could improve public safety.
- The federal grants could help pay for the work. Maine would be eligible for \$39 million in federal grants.

#### Argument for **NO**:

- It would add \$8 million to Maine's debt.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.





# Thank you

**Published in 2012 by: League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund**

**Project Coordinator:**

Sarah Robinson, SCR Contract Services

**League of Women Voter of Maine Education Fund:**

Martha Dickinson, Polly Ferguson, Barbara Kaufman, Barbara McDade, Melissa Murphy, Anne Schink, Colleen Tucker & Cathie Whittenburg

**Readability:**

Kathi Medcalf, Maine Adult Education

**Guide Design, Layout and Production:**

David Cousins, TopTier Creative

**Donors:**

League of Women Voters Education Fund

Emily Farley Fund of the Maine Community Foundation

Philadelphia Foundation

**Guide Distribution Partners:**

**Thanks to all our partners and volunteers!**

**Additional Thanks:**

To Jim Phipps at The Iris Network for storing Guides.

**Printing:**

Alliance Press

## Maine Adult Education

Maine Adult Education has been a distribution partner for the guide since 2008. Many Adult Education Offices use them in the classrooms and encourage students to become engaged in the voting process. Maine Adult Education is a system of 104 locally based adult education programs preparing adults for college, career, and a more rewarding life by providing literacy, job skills, English as a Second Language, and enrichment classes. To find your local adult education office please visit <http://www.maineadulted.org/>.

## The Iris Network

The 2012 Voter Guide was distributed in print and braille with assistance from The Iris Network. The Iris Network is a community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps Maine people who are visually impaired or blind attain independence and community integration. For more information about services available from The Iris Network throughout the State of Maine, please visit [www.theiris.org](http://www.theiris.org).

## Maine Libraries

The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund gratefully acknowledges Maine libraries, where copies of this Voter Guide may be found along with more information about the election and state, local, national and international issues. For a library near you go to [www.maine.gov/msl/findlibs.htm](http://www.maine.gov/msl/findlibs.htm) The League Education Fund and Libraries are natural partners in helping people find important neutral information.



# EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE



## **League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund**

**207-622-0256**

**[www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org)**

The League of Women Voters of Maine is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund is a nonpartisan nonprofit public policy educational organization. It builds citizen participation in the democratic process, studies key community issues at all government levels in an unbiased manner, and enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

## **Join the League of Women Voters of Maine!**

Since women gained the right to vote in 1920, we have educated voters to register and vote. We invite you to become a part of this organization, which is rich in history and accomplishments.

The League of Women Voters of Maine is one of the most respected groups directly involved in keeping citizens engaged in local, state, and national government.

Join online at [www.lwvme.org/join.html](http://www.lwvme.org/join.html). Or mail your contact information and a check for \$55 for one membership, or \$82.50 for two members at the same household to: League of Women Voters of Maine, PO Box 863, Augusta, ME 04332-0863.