

# EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE

Maine General Election: November 2, 2010

Use your rights  
and vote! Learn  
about voting,  
Maine ballot  
questions and  
more.

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## ABOUT THIS GUIDE



The League of Women Voters produced this 2010 Easy-to-Read Voter Guide. We printed and gave away 25,000 copies in Maine. Literacy Volunteers of Maine helped make the guide easy to read.

The *Guide* is **nonpartisan**. This means we do not support or oppose any candidate or political party. We do not promote any platform or position on the ballot questions.

The candidates wrote their own statements for the Guide. We printed their statements as they were written. We did not change their spelling, grammar or punctuation. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by their last names.

The ballot questions are listed in the Guide:

- As you will read them on the ballot
- Easier version of the question
- The reasons for voting YES or NO

## QUESTIONS & COPIES OF THIS GUIDE

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

If you have questions or would like more copies of the Guide, call 1-800-207-8438 or email [lwvme@gwi.net](mailto:lwvme@gwi.net).

To hear someone read the Easy-to-Read Voter Guide on your computer go to [www.theiris.org/Airs/MaineAirs/htm](http://www.theiris.org/Airs/MaineAirs/htm). You can ask for a CD by calling 1-800-207-8438.





# VOTING IS IMPORTANT

## WHY VOTE?

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

On Election Day this year, Maine voters will choose:

- U.S. Representatives in Congress
- Maine Governor
- Representatives and Senators to the Maine State Legislature

Information on these races can be found on pages 11-19.

Voters will also decide on three ballot issues.

You will vote YES or NO to Maine ballot questions about:

- Changes to laws
- The creation of new laws
- The way government spends money

The ballot questions are found on pages 20-22.

Only statewide candidates and issues are included in this voter guide.

## IS MY VOTE PRIVATE?

Yes, your vote is private.

## WHEN IS ELECTION DAY?

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 2, 2010.**



## 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. or 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. For the 2010 election, the cut-off date is October 12, 2010.
- In person at your town office or city hall anytime, even on Election Day.
- At any Motor Vehicle branch office.
- At voting places. Check to make sure registration cards are available.
- Bring an ID and proof of where you live.

## ★ 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 can also change your party registration.
- Examples of political parties include: Democrat, 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 9 for more information.)
- Voting places open between **6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** 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. Your name will be on a list.
- 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.



## DO I NEED AN I.D.?

- If you are a first-time voter, or you have moved, you should bring your I.D. and proof of your address.
- Don't worry. Anyone who is eligible to vote cannot 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 clerk.
- 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.
- 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 clerk 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.
- A printed copy of your completed ballot will be faxed to you.
- You put your ballot in the ballot box.



### 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 do not have to give a reason for voting with an absentee ballot.



### WHAT IS ABSENTEE VOTING?

Absentee voting lets you fill out a ballot without going to a voting place on Election Day. This means you can 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.
- 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.
- Request an absentee ballot from the Division of Elections if you are in the military or living outside the U.S.



## What Do I Do With My Absentee Ballot?

- Fill out the ballot. Remember, you don't have to answer every question.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to your town/city clerk's office so it gets there 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:  
[www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.htm](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: [www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/](http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/)



## 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 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. 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.
- Or, 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 2, 2010.



## PARTY PLATFORMS: DEMOCRAT

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### PARTY STATEMENT:

The Maine Democratic Party is dedicated to electing Democrats across the State. Democrats fight for:

- economic opportunity and security
- universal access to quality education and healthcare
- good government
- fair taxes
- safety and national security
- human rights
- environmental protection

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### 3 TOP PRIORITIES

1. Promote strong sustainable communities
2. Support fairness and opportunity for all
3. Invest in Maine's future

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Number of Members in Maine: 295,950

Phone Number: (207) 622-6233

Website: [www.mainedems.org](http://www.mainedems.org)

## **PARTY PLATFORMS: GREEN INDEPENDENT**

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### **PARTY STATEMENT:**

Our vision seeks a peaceful, prosperous community life characterized by grassroots democracy, equal treatment and access for all people, environmental and economic sustainability, fulfilling and gainful work and leisure, and interdependence of individuals and environment.

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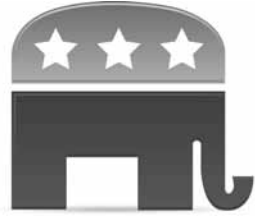
### **3 TOP PRIORITIES**

1. Single-payer health care system for all Mainers;
  2. Incentives for energy conservation practices and utilization of renewable energy sources;
  3. Prohibition on contributions to campaigns from entities that are not natural persons.
- 

Number of Members in Maine: 32,479

Phone Number: (207) 699-1321

Website: [www.mainegreens.org](http://www.mainegreens.org)



## PARTY PLATFORMS: REPUBLICAN

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### PARTY STATEMENT:

Respect the U.S. Constitution.

Demand people be responsible/accountable.

Peace and prosperity comes through strength.

Limit government to things government does better than private business.

Make sure citizens continue to live in a state/nation of opportunity.

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### 3 TOP PRIORITIES

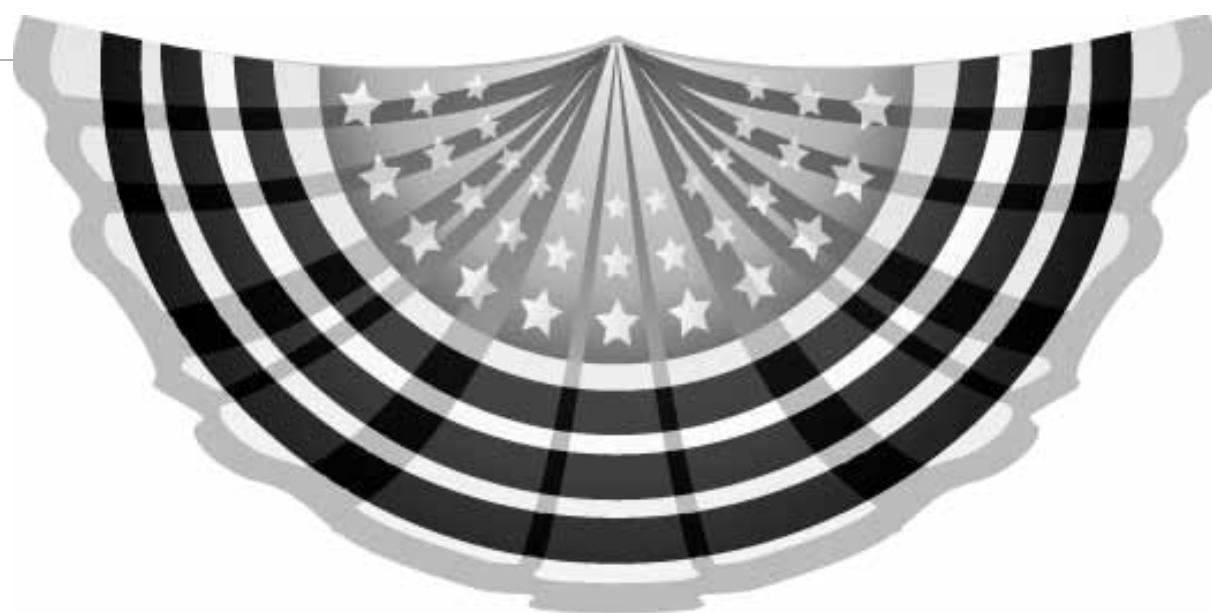
1. Less government
  2. Lower taxes with responsible polices that protect our neediest citizens
  3. Keep Maine's quality of life through jobs, economic growth and responsible environmental practices
- 

Number of Members in Maine: 273, 305

Phone Number: (207) 622-6247

Website: [www.mainegop.com](http://www.mainegop.com)

# CANDIDATES



## DISTRICT 1: US REPRESENTATIVE



### CHELLIE PINGREE

Political Party: **Democrat**

Age: **55**

Hometown: **North Haven, ME**

Current Job: **Managing Partner of Nebo Lodge, Congresswoman of Maine's First District**

Website: **pingreeforcongress.com**

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Chellie isn't your typical politician. She was a single mother, School Board Chair, and small businesswoman who met a payroll and paid taxes. Chellie knows the economy is tough. As a member of Congress, her loyalty is to Maine people and small businesses struggling every day. She fights for us in Washington.

#### GOALS

Chellie believes we need to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and bring home our troops. We need to focus on education for children, affordable healthcare, and create jobs for the future of Maine's economy.



### DEAN P. SCOTRAS

Political Party: **Republican**

Age: **40**

Hometown: **Kittery, ME**

Current Job: **Small Business Owner**

Website: **Scontras2010.com**

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

High government spending, high taxes and high debts make it expensive for companies to hire people. When I go to Congress, I will lower taxes and lower the debt. Maine companies can then hire more people - and those workers can keep more of the money they make.

#### GOALS

My goals are to represent Maine people and our interests in Congress. Lower government spending and debts will improve the economy. This will help people get better jobs and have stable, long-term careers here in Maine.

## DISTRICT 2: US REPRESENTATIVE



### MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

Political Party: **Democrat**

Current Job: **Member of Congress**

Age: **55**

Website: **michaudforcongress.com**

Hometown: **East Millinocket, ME**

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

I have had the honor and privilege to serve Maine in Congress for the past 8 years. My background, as a millworker and state legislator, has given me a valuable perspective when dealing with the many challenging issues 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 to veterans' programs.
3. As a former millworker, I will lead the fight for fairer trade deals.



### JASON LEVESQUE

Political Party: **Republican**

Current Job: **Owner, Argo Marketing Group**

Age: **36**

Website: **levesqueforcongress.com**

Hometown: **Auburn, ME**

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Candidate did not submit information in time for printing.

#### GOALS

Candidate did not submit information in time for printing.



## GOVERNOR CANDIDATES



### ELIOT CUTLER

Political Party: **Independent**

Age: **64**

Hometown: **Cape Elizabeth, ME**

Current Job: **Attorney**

Website: **Cutler2010.com**

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

As Governor, I will work day and night to bring jobs and opportunities to Maine so that people can earn a good living and our children and grandchildren can stay here. Party politics hasn't worked for us. I can help turn this state around because I'm Independent. Just like Maine.

#### GOALS

Lower the cost of living and doing business in Maine, especially the costs of energy, healthcare and government.

1. Invest in our competitive advantages.
2. Reform education so that every Maine child can succeed.



### PAUL R. LEPAGE

Political Party: **Republican**

Age: **61**

Hometown: **Waterville, ME**

Current Job: **: Lead Executive for Marden's Inc. & Mayor of Waterville**

Website: **lepage2010.com**

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Homeless at the age of 11, I have faced adversity. I overcame it to finish high school, college and earn an advanced degree. As the Lead Executive of Mardens, I created hundreds of jobs. As the Republican Mayor with an all Democratic Council, we cut taxes and eliminated wasteful spending.

#### GOALS

As Governor, I will fight for Maine jobs and families, protect our veterans and seniors, and ensure our kids can succeed. I have a real plan to create jobs, cutting red tape and high taxes.

## GOVERNOR CANDIDATES



### LIBBY MITCHELL

Political Party: **Democratic**

Age: **70**

Hometown: **Vassalboro, ME**

Current Job: **President of the State Senate**

Website: **libbymitchellforgovernor.com**

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

I care deeply about Maine. My husband and I raised our family here. I am committed to fighting for Maine families, Maine values and protecting what is special about our state.

I have a plan to make our schools better and create jobs. Together, we will move Maine forward.

#### GOALS

- Create jobs that pay well in every part of Maine
- Improve our schools and lower the cost of college
- Lower our energy costs and invest in clean energy
- Quality and affordable healthcare



### SHAWN MOODY

Political Party: **Independent**

Age: **50**

Hometown: **Gorham, ME**

Current Job: **: Owner/Operator of Moody's Collision Center**

Website: **moodygov.com**

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

I'm a successful small business owner and a lifelong resident of Gorham. I am running for governor to give working men and women a voice in Augusta. I want to help Maine's small businesses grow and prosper.

#### GOALS

1. Help create jobs and get our state moving again.
2. Increase competition in health care
3. Change welfare to workfare
4. Introduce merit pay in education
5. Lower Maine's dropout rate and keep more young people in Maine.

## GOVERNOR CANDIDATES



### KEVIN SCOTT

Political Party: **Independent**

Age: **42**

Hometown: **Vassalboro, ME**

Current Job: : **Founder & President, Recruiting Resources Int'l since 1998**

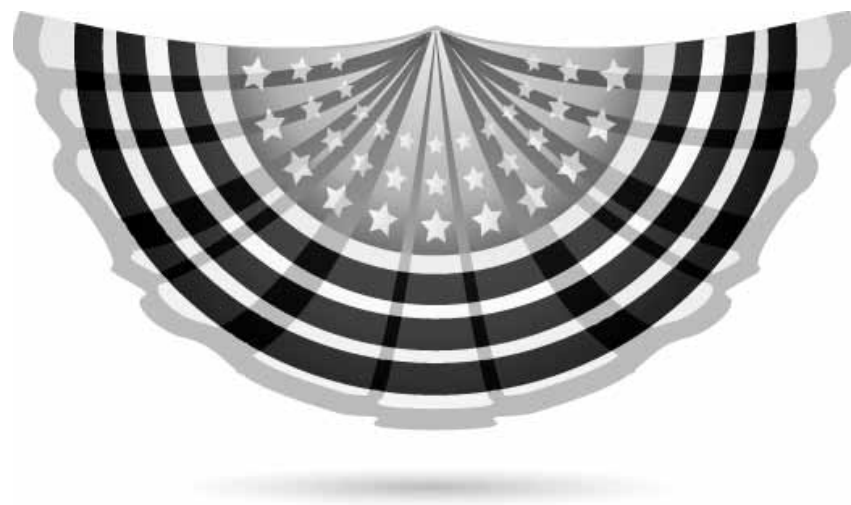
Website: **[mainesbestchoice.com](http://mainesbestchoice.com)**

#### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Moving Maine forward with sound public policy will require moving away from the same old practices of national political agenda's. Maine is a vibrant, innovative collection of small towns and cities. It is from these sources we will bring innovation into our government processes to better Maine's future.

#### GOALS

Achieving growths in Maine's economy through high-tech, year round agriculture for Maine's k-12 education system. Ensuring Maine's Legislature has a partner in development of public policy, not a competitor.



# 1

## BALLOT QUESTION 1: CITIZEN INITIATIVE

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**Do you want to allow a casino with table games and slot machines at a single site in Oxford County, subject to local approval, with part of the profits going to specific state, local and tribal programs?**

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Do you want to let a casino be built in Oxford County?



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

- A casino would create jobs in Oxford County.
- A casino would pay taxes.
- Part of the profits would be shared with state, local, and tribal programs.



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

- A casino would compete with slot machines, horse racing and Bingo in other Maine towns.
- Another casino could not be built in Maine for 10 years.
- When there are casinos, there are more problems like crime and domestic violence. Taxes will have to be raised to deal with these problems.

# 2

## BALLOT QUESTION 2: BOND ISSUE

Do you favor a \$5,000,000 bond issue to be awarded on a competitive basis to increase access to dental care in Maine, \$3,500,000 to be used for a community-based teaching dental clinic affiliated with or operated by a college of dental medicine to be matched by \$3,500,000 in other funds, and \$1,500,000 to be used to create or upgrade community-based health and dental care clinics across the State to increase their capacity as teaching and dental clinics?

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Should Maine borrow \$5 million to improve dental care in Maine?



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

- Dental care in Maine would improve.
- There would be more dental care available in Maine.



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

- Maine would add \$5 million to its debt.

# 3

## BALLOT QUESTION 3: BOND ISSUE

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**Do you favor a \$9,750,000 bond issue to invest in land conservation and working waterfront preservation and to preserve parks to be matched by \$9,250,000 in federal and other funds?**

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### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Should Maine borrow \$9.75 million in a bond issue? The money will be used to save lands that are not developed, working waterfronts and parks.



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

- It would help save Maine lands that are not developed. It would help save working waterfronts. It would help save parks.
- The federal government will help pay for the work. It will give Maine \$9.25 million more.



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

- It would add \$9.75 million to Maine's debt. There would be less land to develop.



# THANK YOU

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# EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE



## **League of Women Voters of Maine**

**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.

LWVME is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement! We have members throughout the state of Maine, with local chapters in the Portland area, in Bath/Brunswick, and in Hancock County.



## **Literacy Volunteers of Maine**

**1-800-322-5455**

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

Literacy Volunteers of Maine is dedicated to providing increased access to literacy services for Maine adults who wish to acquire or improve their literacy skills.