

EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE

Maine General Election: November 4, 2014



LOOK INSIDE: TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| About This Guide | 2 |
| Why Vote? | 3 |
| What is a Citizen Initiative? | 3 |
| Registering to Vote | 4-5 |
| How Do I Vote? | 6-7 |
| Accessible Voting System | 7 |
| Absentee Ballots | 8-9 |
| Things to Remember | 10 |
| US Senate and Representative Job Descriptions | 11 |
| US Senate Candidates | 12 |
| US Rep District 1 Candidates | 13-14 |
| US Rep District 2 Candidates | 15-16 |
| Governor Job Description | 17 |
| Governor Candidates | 18-19 |
| What is a Bond Issue? | 20 |
| Citizen Initiative Question | 21 |
| Bond Questions | 22-27 |
| About LWVME | 28 |



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF MAINE
EDUCATION FUND**



About This Guide



The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund produced this Easy-to-Read Voter Guide for the 2014 General Election. We printed and gave away 25,000 copies in Maine. Portland Adult Education helped make this guide easy to read. This information is nonpartisan. This means we do not endorse or support any candidate 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.



Questions & Copies of This Guide

The text is online at www.lwvme.org

If you have questions, call 1-888-207-1839 or email us at voterguide@lwvme.org.



Thank You

Published in 2014 by:
League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund

Project Coordinator: Sarah Robinson, SCR Contract Services

League of Women Voters of Maine, Voter Service Committee:
Barbara Kaufman, Michelle Small & Colleen Tucker

Guide Design, Layout and Production: Carolee Pojak, CPojak Designs

Donors:
The Emily Farley Fund at The Maine Community Foundation
League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund

Thanks to all of our partners and volunteers who assist with distribution!



Why Vote?



Why Vote?

You can help make important changes in the way your state and country are run. You will be voting on candidates for state legislative offices. In some cities and towns, you may also be asked to vote on local issues and candidates. This year is a General Election.

On Election Day, Maine voters will vote for:

- **US Senator**
- **US Representative**
- **Governor**
- **Ballot and bond questions, including a citizen initiative**
(more on pages 20-27)
- **State legislative offices, and local issues and offices**



Is My Vote Private?

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



When is Election Day?

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 is Election Day.



Registering to Vote



Who Can Vote?

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

- You are age 17 or older (You must 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.



Registering to Vote



When Can I Register to Vote?

You can register to vote on any business day, 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 or town clerk by Tuesday, October 14, 2014.
- In person at city hall or your town office during regular business hours, even on Election Day.
- At any Bureau of Motor Vehicles office by October 7, 2014.
- At voting places.

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 if you want. It is free. You can 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. Just check "Unenrolled" on the registration card.



How Do I Vote



Where Do I Go to Vote?

- Every city and town has its own place where people can vote. These are called voting places, polls, or polling places.
- Call city hall or your town office to find out where you should go.
- Voting places open between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The opening time is not the same for all cities and towns.
- **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).
- Do not worry. No eligible voter can be turned away.



How Do I Vote/AVS



How Do I Fill Out the Ballot?

- A ballot is the piece of paper where you mark your vote.
- Different cities and towns 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 Cannot 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)**, which is voting by phone.
- An election worker can help you with your ballot.
- Your employer or union official cannot help you vote.



How Do I Vote by AVS?

- Go to the voting place and tell the election clerk you want to use AVS Accessible Voting System or vote by phone.
- 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 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.



Absentee Ballots



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 need a reason if you ask for an absentee ballot by **October 30, 2014.**

If you ask for an absentee ballot after October 30, 2014, you must complete a special application. You must also give a reason why you cannot go to your polling place on Election Day. The only reasons that you can choose are:

1. You will be out of town unexpectedly all day on Election Day.
2. You have a disability.
3. You live on an island and cannot get transportation on Election Day.
4. You have an illness and cannot leave home.



What is Absentee Voting?

Absentee voting lets you vote at home and mail your absentee ballot to your city or town clerk, or you can complete an absentee ballot in person at your city or town hall. The city or town clerk must receive absentee ballots by:

8:00 p.m. on Election Day for your vote to count.



Absentee Ballots



How Do I Get an Absentee Ballot?

- Ask for an absentee ballot from your city or town 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 city or town 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 do not have to vote for every question. It is okay to leave questions blank.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to the city or your town clerk's office.

It must be received before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.



How Do I Find My City or Town Clerk?

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



Phone 207-624-7650

Email: cec.elections@maine.gov

Website: www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/



Things to Remember



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



What If My Name is Not on the List at the Voting Place?

- Bring an ID in case you need to register or are voting for the first time.
- You may need to register to vote.
- The election clerk will help you. You may be sent to a different voting place.
- You may need to vote a challenge ballot.



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, which is voting by. You will not be the only one with questions!



How Can I Avoid the Crowds?

- Go to the voting place when it tends to be 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. Just be sure your absentee ballot **is received by your city or town office before 8:00 p.m. on November 4, 2014.**



For More Maine Ballot Details

Go to the Citizen's Guide at:

www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming.html

★ ★ ★ US Senate & Representative Job Descriptions

★ UNITED STATES SENATOR

Term (years to serve): Six years

Salary: \$174,000

Senators write and pass laws. They share this job with the House of Representatives. They research important issues and hold public hearings. Senators approve treaties with other countries. They also approve cabinet members, federal judges, and foreign ambassadors that are chosen by the president.

Citizens of each state elect two senators who represent the whole state. They serve for 6 years. Voters can elect a senator for as many terms as they choose. The Senate consists of 100 members, two from each state. Every two years, one-third (1/3) of the Senate is elected. A senator must be at least 30 years old. He or she must be a citizen of the United States for at least nine years.

★ UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE: DISTRICT 1 & DISTRICT 2 (Member of the House of Representatives)

Term (years to serve): Two years

Salary: \$174,000

Members of the House of Representatives write and pass the nation's laws. They share this job with the Senate. They research important issues and hold public hearings. Bills that raise money for any government program start in the House and must also be passed by the Senate.

The United States is divided into 435 congressional districts. The districts are based on the number of people in the state. Every state has at least one member of the House of Representatives. Maine has two. All members of the House are elected in even-numbered years. Voters can elect a representative for as many terms as they choose. A representative must be at least 25 years old. He or she must be a citizen of the United States for at least 7 years.



US Senate Candidates



SHENNA BELLOWS

Party: Democratic
Website: www.bellowsforsenate.com
Campaign Phone: 207-480-3171

Home town: Manchester, Maine
Current Job: Former Civil Liberties Nonprofit Director

| PERSONAL STATEMENT | GOALS |
|---|--|
| I grew up in Hancock, Maine. I am the daughter of a carpenter and a nurse. I believe working families need a voice in Washington. Our politics should be about real people, not big money. I will always stand up for workers, women, seniors and students. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. My number one goal is jobs and the economy. We need more jobs and better pay for workers.2. I'll work hard to increase Social Security and fix the student loan crisis.3. I'll defend the Constitution. |



SUSAN COLLINS

Party: Republican
Website: www.susancollins.com
Campaign Phone: 207-747-9194

Home town: Bangor (Caribou native)
Current Job: United States Senator

| PERSONAL STATEMENT | GOALS |
|---|---|
| Susan has been recognized for her legislative accomplishments and ability to bring people of differing views together. Ideologically in the Senate's center, ELLE magazine called her one of Washington's ten most powerful women. Reflecting the Maine work ethic, Susan has never missed a vote -- more than 5600 straight. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Help move our country beyond partisan gridlock and help restore civility to our public discourse.2. Work to foster job creation.3. Continue to improve health care quality, affordability, and access. |



US Rep District 1 Candidates



ISAAC
MISIUK



RICHARD
MURPHY



CHELLIE
PINGREE



ISAAC MISIUK

Party: Republican
Website: www.misiukforcongress.com
Campaign Phone: 207-358-8244

Home Town:
Current Job:

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Candidate did not provide information.

GOALS

Candidate did not provide information.

★
★
★

US Rep District 1 Candidates



RICHARD MURPHY

Party: Independent (unenrolled)
Website: www.MurphyForMaine.com
Campaign Phone: 207-313-7977

Home town: Springvale
Current Job: Property Manager & Army National Guard

| PERSONAL STATEMENT | GOALS |
|---|---|
| As a Veteran and as an American, I have grown tired. I am tired of the career politicians in D.C. They represent their largest contributors' interests over that of the people. We need representation in D.C. for everyone. We need fiscal responsibility and some common sense in Washington. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reduce the size of and the spending of the Federal Government.2. Real solutions to Healthcare affordability.3. Tax reform. |



CHELLIE PINGREE

Party: Democratic
Website: www.pingreeforcongress.com
Campaign Phone: 207-773-0155

Home Town: North Haven
Current Job: Member of Congress

| PERSONAL STATEMENT | GOALS |
|---|---|
| I know Mainers work hard to make ends meet. That's why I have worked hard to expand economic choices for all Maine people. We also must protect Medicare and Social Security, and make sure women are paid the same as men. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase economic opportunities in Maine--good paying jobs for Maine people.2. Making sure that women are paid the same as their male counterparts.3. Protect and strengthen Medicare and Social Security. |



US Rep District 2 Candidates



EMILY
CAIN



BRUCE
POLIQUIN



BLAINE
RICHARDSON



EMILY CAIN

Party: Democratic
Website: www.cainforcongress.com
Campaign Phone: 207-991-2464

Home town: Orono, Maine
Current Job: State Senator/UMaine Honors College

PERSONAL STATEMENT

- I believe in:
- The American Dream for everyone: a good job, a good education, and access to a doctor when you are sick.
 - Working together to get things done.
 - Staying at the table to help more Maine families, seniors, and veterans.
 - Standing up for Maine’s middle class.

GOALS

1. Create more jobs that pay well for Maine people.
2. Protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare.
3. Increase access to quality schools and affordable colleges.



US Rep District 2 Candidates



BRUCE POLIQUIN

Party: Republican

Website: www.poliquinforcongress.com

Campaign Phone: 207-370-6725

Home town:

Current Job:

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Candidate did not provide information.

GOALS

Candidate did not provide information.



BLAINE RICHARDSON

Party: Independent (unenrolled)

Website: www.blaineforuscongress.com

Campaign Phone: 207-323-0855

Home town: Belfast, ME

Current Job: Retired Military/
Construction

PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a thirty year veteran of the United States Navy, I am campaigning for Congress on principles rooted in the United States Constitution; personal freedom, civil liberties and restoring the federal government to its constitutional boundaries.

GOALS

1. Return the federal government to its constitutional boundaries.
2. Make sure veterans receive all due benefits.
3. Defund unconstitutional bureaucracies.



Governor Job Description



Governor

Term (years to serve): 4 years

Salary: \$70,000

A governor can suggest new bills to the Legislature. He or she can sign or veto a bill that the Legislature passes. Two-thirds (2/3) of the Legislature must vote to override a veto.

Override means that a bill becomes a law even if the Governor does not agree. The Governor carries out the laws. He or she also picks cabinet members and judges that must be approved by the State Senate.

Governors are elected every four years. Voters can elect a governor two times or for a total of eight years. The Governor must be 30 years old. He or she must be a citizen for at least 15 years. He or she must live in Maine for at least five years.



**ELIOT
CUTLER**



**PAUL
LEPAGE**



**MICHAEL
MICHAUD**



Governor Candidates



ELIOT CUTLER

Party: Independent (unenrolled)
Website: www.cutlerformaine.com
Campaign Phone: 207-358-7000

Home town: Cape Elizabeth
Current Job: Businessman and candidate

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Maine is the most special place on earth, and I believe that every man, woman and child in our state deserves an opportunity to succeed here and to reach his or her full potential. I want to put my experience and ideas to work to create those opportunities.

GOALS

1. Create jobs and economic opportunities throughout Maine.
2. Reform Maine's tax system, starting with property taxes.
3. Make needed investments in education, infrastructure and healthcare.



PAUL LePAGE

Party: Republican
Website: www.lepage2014.com
Campaign Phone: 207-621-6720

Home town: Lewiston
Current Job: Governor

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Actions speak louder than words. I may not be the best public speaker, but as Governor I have always put Mainers first each day and worked to get things done. I am proud of my leadership in pushing through the largest tax cut in Maine history, and reducing burdensome regulations.

GOALS

My first priority is to reduce energy costs to make Maine more competitive. This will help improve our economy, and create more jobs for Maine people. These things together will make Maine more prosperous.



Governor Candidates



MICHAEL MICHAUD

Party: Democratic
Website: www.michaud2014.com
Campaign Phone: 207-504-5494

Home town: East Millinocket
Current Job: U.S. Representative
for Maine’s Second Congressional
District

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I love Maine. I will move this state forward. I will give everyone a voice. I am a practical problems solver. I am committed to listening. I will bring everyone together to solve problems.

GOALS

- 1. Create jobs.
- 2. Expand access to health care.
- 3. Ensure every child receives a world-class public education regardless of zip code.



What is a Bond Issue



What is a Bond?

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



How Does a Bond Work?

As a citizen, you get to choose what projects the State will fund by voting for or against a bond issue.



What Financial Impact Does Passing These Bonds Have on the State of Maine?

- The state's total budget for next year is nearly \$4 billion.
- The total increase in Maine's debt if all the bond issues pass would be \$61 million. The state of Maine currently owes \$450 million in outstanding debt.
- The money to repay the bonds every year comes out of the state's general fund and/or highway fund. These payments must be made. This decreases the money that the Maine Legislature has to allocate for other projects.



What is a Citizen Initiative?

- Any Maine registered voter can create a proposed law.
- The voter must submit an application. It has to include the full text of the proposed law.
- If the application is approved, a petition form will be provided that needs to be signed by Maine voters.
- This year the petition must have 57,277 valid signatures to be put on the ballot (10% of the total votes for the Governor at the 2010 election).
- Maine voters will vote for or against the proposed law.



Ballot Question

1

BALLOT QUESTION 1: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to ban the use of bait, dogs or traps in bear hunting except to protect property, public safety, or for research?

What this question means:

This question stops hunters from using dogs, bait, or traps to catch or kill bears. It does allow law enforcement to use these means to protect property and people from bears. It also allows scientists to use these means to study bears.



Argument for **YES**:

- Using bait, dogs, or traps to hunt is not a sport. Bears do not have a fair chance to escape.
- Feeding bears junk food as bait causes their numbers to grow.
- Feeding bears human food makes them less afraid of humans and more likely to approach homes in search of human food.
- Bears can hurt dogs when they fight back.
- Maine is the only state that allows bear trapping.
- A bear can remain in a trap for more than 24 hours before the hunter arrives to kill it.
- Maine people will still be able to hunt bears with bows and guns.



Argument for **NO**:

- Banning the use of bait, dogs, or traps in bear hunting would discourage hunters from visiting Maine. Maine people would lose business and jobs.
- The number of bears in Maine has grown by 67 percent (2/3) since 1990.
- Hundreds of people complain about bears every year, so we need to keep their population in check.
- Hunters already kill too few bears every year to keep the population steady.
- The bear population would grow even more without the use of bait, dogs, or traps in hunting.



Bond Questions

2

BALLOT QUESTION 2: Bond Issue

Do you favor an \$8,000,000 bond issue to support Maine agriculture, facilitate economic growth in natural resources-based industries and monitor human health threats related to ticks, mosquitoes and bedbugs through the creation of an animal and plant disease and insect control laboratory administered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service?

What this question means:

The state wants to borrow \$8 million to research plant and animal diseases and diseases carried by ticks, mosquitos, and bedbugs. The lab will be run by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service.



Argument for **YES**:

- The bond will provide money for a research facility run by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service.
- Use of the bond funds could result in jobs and may help the economy in the State of Maine.
- Researching these diseases could lead to better health for people and animals in Maine.
- Researching animal and plant diseases could also help farmers and wildlife.



Argument for **NO**:

- Maine would add \$8 million to its total debt.
- It will cost a total of \$9.76 million in principal and interest over ten years to repay the money.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.



Bond Questions

3

BALLOT QUESTION 3: Bond Issue

Do you favor a bond issue to provide \$4,000,000 in funds to insure portions of loans to small businesses to spur investment and innovation and to provide \$8,000,000 in funds to make flexible loans to small businesses to create jobs, revitalize downtowns and strengthen the rural economy?

What this question means:

The state wants to borrow \$12 million to support small businesses in Maine.



Argument for YES:

- The bond will provide loans to small businesses in Maine.
- Use of the bond funds could result in new jobs.
- It may help the economy in the State of Maine.
- The bonds could help rural areas of Maine.



Argument for NO:

- Maine would add \$12 million to its total debt.
- It will cost a total of \$14.64 million in principal and interest over ten years to repay the money.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money



Bond Questions

4

BALLOT QUESTION 4: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond issue, to be awarded through a competitive process and to be matched by \$11,000,000 in private and other funds, to build a research center and to discover genetic solutions for cancer and the diseases of aging, to promote job growth and private sector investment in this State, to attract and retain young professionals and make the State a global leader in genomic medicine?

What this question means:

The state wants to borrow \$10 million to expand medical and genetic research. These funds will be matched by private funds. Maine would pay \$10 million. Private and other funds would pay \$11 million.



Argument for **YES**:

- Jobs may be created in the fields of biomedical and genetic research and in other areas of the Maine economy.
- Money is needed from the State of Maine to get the rest of the private money.
- The \$10 million bond will be matched by \$11 million in other funds.
- It may help attract young medical professionals and scientists to move to the state.
- It may specifically benefit the Jackson Laboratory on Mount Desert Island.
- Researchers may find new medical treatments for cancer and diseases.



Argument for **NO**:

- Maine would add \$10 million to its total debt.
- It will cost a total of \$12.2 million in principal and interest over ten years to repay the money.
- It may specifically benefit the Jackson Laboratory on Mount Desert Island.
- Some people think private institutions should not get taxpayer money
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.



Bond Questions

5

BALLOT QUESTION 5: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$3,000,000 bond issue, to be awarded through a competitive process and to be matched by \$5,700,000 in private and public funds, to modernize and expand infrastructure in a biological laboratory specializing in tissue repair and regeneration located in the State in order to increase biotechnology workforce training, retain and recruit to the State multiple biomedical research and development groups and create a drug discovery and development facility that will improve human health and stimulate biotechnology job growth and economic activity?

What this question means:

The state wants to borrow \$3 million to improve and expand biology labs in Maine. These funds will be matched by private and public funds. Maine would pay \$3 million. Private and public funds would pay \$5.7 million.



Argument for **YES**:

- Money is needed from the State of Maine to get the rest of the private and public money needed to complete the project.
- The \$3 million bond will be matched by \$5.7 million in other funds.
- The improved facilities could increase biomedical workforce training. This could lead to more local jobs in the future.
- Researchers may find new drug treatments to improve human health.
- The improved facilities could attract more research groups to Maine.
- The bond may specifically benefit the MDI Biological Laboratory and other private and public colleges and universities in Maine.



Argument for **NO**:

- Maine would add \$3 million to its total debt.
- It will cost a total of \$3.66 million in principal and interest over ten years to repay the money.
- The bond may specifically benefit the MDI Biological Laboratory and other private colleges and universities in Maine.
- Some people think private institutions should not get taxpayer money.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.



Bond Questions

6

BALLOT QUESTION 6: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond issue to ensure clean water and safe communities across Maine; to protect drinking water sources; to restore wetlands; to create jobs and vital public infrastructure; and to strengthen the State's long-term economic base and competitive advantage?

What this question means:

The state would borrow \$10 million to improve water quality in Maine.



Argument for YES:

- The bond will provide money to protect drinking water, prevent wastewater pollution, and restore wetlands .
- Use of the bond funds could result in new jobs.
- It may help the economy in the State of Maine.



Argument for NO:

- It would add \$10 million to Maine's debt.
- It will cost a total of \$12.2 million in principal and interest over ten years to repay the money.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.



Bond Questions

7

BALLOT QUESTION 7: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$7,000,000 bond issue to facilitate the growth of marine businesses and commercial enterprises that create jobs and improve the sustainability of the State's marine economy and related industries through capital investments, to be matched by at least \$7,000,000 in private and other funds?"

What this question means:

The state wants to borrow \$7 million to help marine businesses. These funds will be matched by private funds. Maine would pay \$7 million. Private and other funds would pay \$7 million.



Argument for **YES**:

- The bond will provide money to commercial fishing and aquaculture businesses.
- It will support research in areas related to oceans and fishing in Maine.
- Use of the bond funds could result in new jobs in fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing.
- It may help the economy in the State of Maine.
- The \$7 million bond will be matched by \$7 million in private and other funds.



Argument for **NO**:

- Maine would add \$7 million to its total debt.
- It will cost a total of \$8.54 million in principal and interest over ten years to repay the money.
- Some people think private businesses should not get taxpayer money but should get loans from banks.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.

EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE



League of Women Voters of Maine (LWVME) League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund

T. 207-622-0256

Website: 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.

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.

Visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/LWVME

And our Twitter feed: @LWVME



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** to pay by credit card or PayPal only.
Or mail your contact information and a check to:

League of Women Voters of Maine
PO Box 863
Augusta, ME 04332-0863

Available membership categories: \$55 one member, \$85 two members in the same household, \$25 for students and first-time members, and \$100 for mentors whose dues support discounted memberships for others. Dues are not tax deductible.