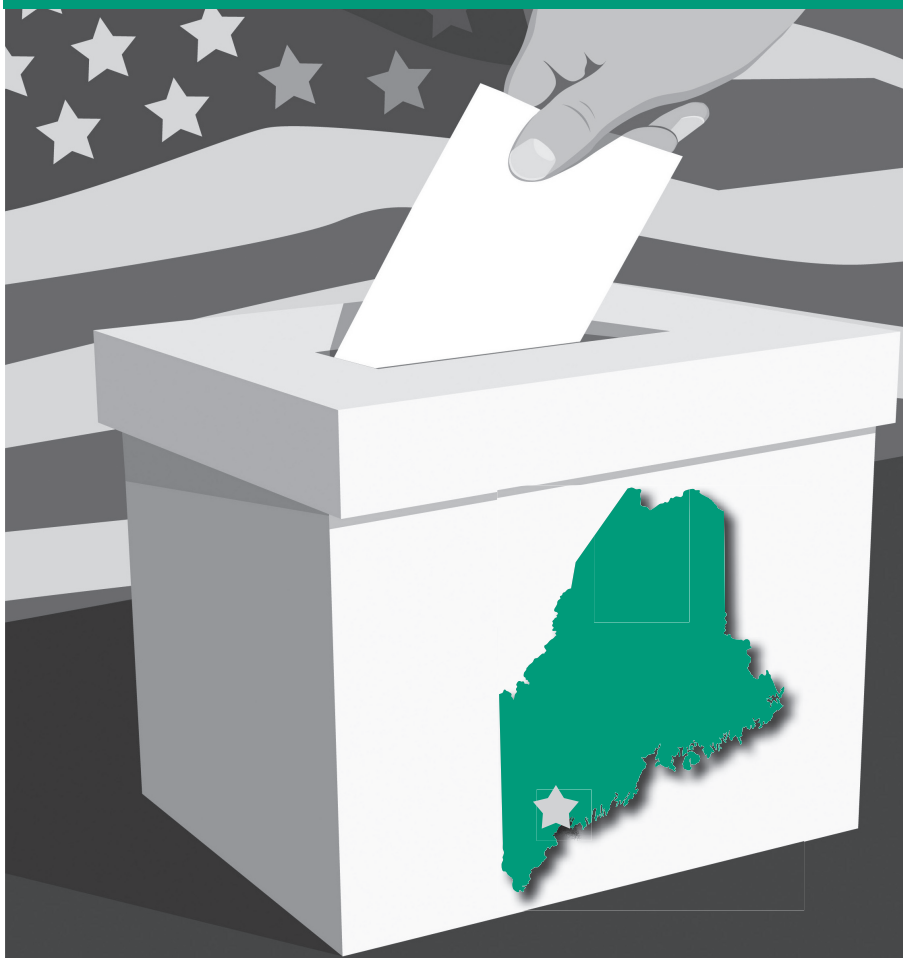


EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE

Portland Mayoral Election

November 3, 2015



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF MAINE
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About This Guide



The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund produced this 2015 Easy-to-Read Voter Guide for the Mayoral Election. We printed and gave away 12,000 copies in Portland.

This information is nonpartisan. That means this guide does 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 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 mainevoterguide@gmail.com.



When is Election Day?

Tuesday, November 3, 2015 is Election Day.

Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



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.



Why Vote?



Why Vote?

You can help make important changes in the way your city, state, and country are run. This year is a mayoral and referendum election in Portland, as well as a referendum election for the state of Maine.

On Election Day, November 3rd, 2015, Portland voters will vote for:

- **Mayor**
- **City Council, School Board, and Water District**
- **Local referendum questions on minimum wage and scenic overview**
- **Statewide ballot and bond questions, including a citizen initiative**

Information about the City Council, School Board, and Water District races and the referendum questions are not included in this guide.

To see a sample ballot with the Portland referendum questions, go to:
www.portlandmaine.gov/325/Elections-Voting

For more information about the voting process, statewide ballot and bond issues, go to: **www.lwvme.org/guide.html**



Is My Vote Private?

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



Why Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)?



RCV and the Mayoral Election

Portland voters will use Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for the second time to choose a mayor. RCV is a way to vote for more than one candidate, choosing a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice, and so on.



Why use RCV?

- More than two candidates are running for one office.
- Gives voters a chance to rank all the candidates by their 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on.
- Allows for the possibility of a compromise candidate.
- Helps elect a candidate a majority of voters like the best.
- Eliminates need for a runoff election.



Sample Mayoral Ballot

For Mayor Four Year Term (Rank candidates in order of choice) <small>No more than <u>one</u> oval per <u>column</u>. No more than <u>one</u> oval per <u>candidate</u>.</small>	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Brennan, Michael F. 49 Wellington Road	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MacMillan, Thomas R. 24 A Deering Avenue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strimling, Ethan K. 211 Spring Street	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CAUTION! You can bring this sample ballot into the voting booth. If you do bring it with you, **make sure to remove it from the booth when you leave.**



Your Mayoral Ballot



Rank your Mayoral Candidate Choices

- Select your favorite candidate and mark as your **1st Choice**.
- Select your second favorite candidate and mark as your **2nd Choice**.
- Select your third favorite candidate and mark as your **3rd Choice**.
- Continue ranking candidates until you have voted for as many candidates as you want.
- The more candidates you rank, the greater the chance that your vote will count for one of the candidates in the final round.
- Remember that your choices for other candidates never count against the vote for your first choice candidate.



What to keep in mind when filling out the ballot

- Rank only one candidate as your first choice.
- Rank different candidates as your 2nd and 3rd choices.
- Fill in ONLY ONE oval per row or column.
- If you make a mistake, see an election clerk to get a new ballot.



Why is the political party of the candidates not listed in the guide?

- All City of Portland races are nonpartisan. The political parties for candidates are not listed on the ballot.
- Visit the candidates websites or call their campaign offices to find out the political party affiliation.



About Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)



The Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Process

STEP 1: Voters select their *1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice*, and so on.

STEP 2: Municipal officials count all ballots.
Did someone get 50%+ 1 of the first choice votes?

Yes--they win!

No--go to Step 3:

STEP 3: Last place candidate is removed.

STEP 4: All voters who ranked the removed candidate as their first choice will have their vote added to the totals of their second choice candidate. A computer recalculates the votes automatically.



Who Wins?

The winning candidate is the one who receives the majority of support (50% + 1) in the final round of counting.

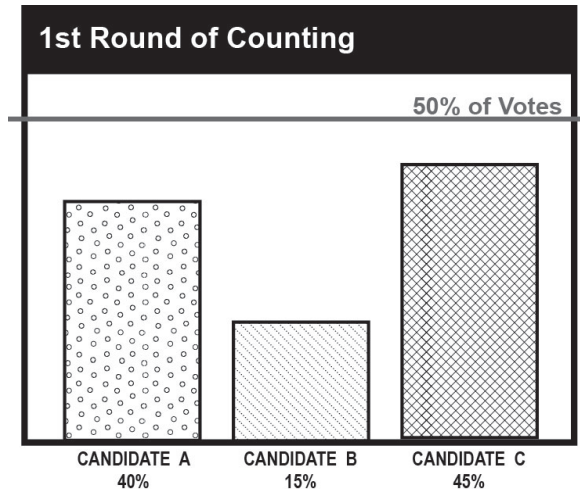


About Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

STEP 1: Voters rank their choices

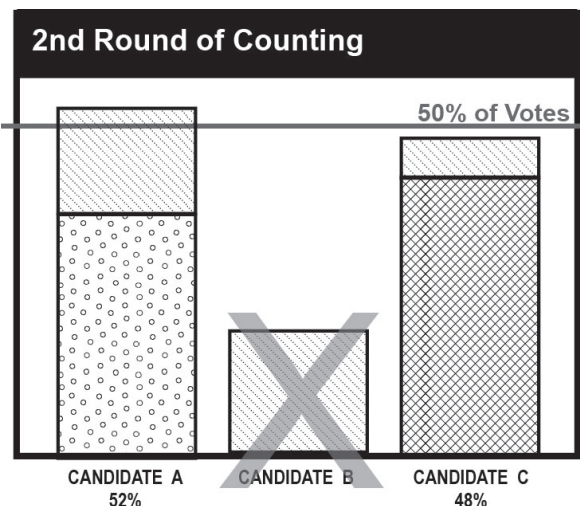
SAMPLE BALLOT			
Rank candidates in order of preference by 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice			
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write in _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

STEP 2: Ballots are counted



STEP 3: Last place candidate is removed. STEP 4: Votes are recalculated

SAMPLE BALLOT			
Rank candidates in order of preference by 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice			
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write in _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



WHO WINS? Candidate A wins with 52% of the votes.



Questions About Your Ballot



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.



Questions about Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

Portland City Clerk
389 Congress St. Room 203
Portland, ME 04101
207-874-8677
www.portlandmaine.gov/325/Elections-Voting
cityclerk@portlandmaine.gov

League of Women Voters of Portland Area
PO Box 7904
Portland, ME 04112-7904
207-622-0256
www.lwvme.org
voterguide@lwvme.com





Mayoral Job Description



The Portland Mayor

Term (years to serve): 4 years

Salary: \$65,000

- Can serve up to two terms
- Is a member of the City Council
- Chairs City Council meetings
- Acts as a leader of the city
- Helps change city policies
- Oversees hiring and removing the City Manager, City Clerk, and Corporation Counsel
- Provides advice to the City Manager
- Helps prepare city budgets and improvement plans
- Can veto budgets, which the council can override

To be Portland's Mayor you must be--

- 18 years old
- US Citizen
- Resident of Portland for at least 3 months

All City of Portland races are nonpartisan. The political parties for candidates are not listed on the ballot or in this guide. To find out the political party for the candidates, visit their websites or call their campaign offices.



**MICHAEL
BRENNAN**



**TOM
MACMILLAN**



**ETHAN
STRIMLING**



Mayoral Candidates



MICHAEL BRENNAN

Website: www.brennanforportland.com
Campaign Phone: 207-590-8366

Neighborhood: Back Cove
Current Job: Mayor of Portland

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am running because I believe in Portland's future. This city is growing, and needs a mayor who truly cares about making life better for everyone. I have done what I said I'd do, and I will continue to roll up my sleeves and tackle the tough issues facing Portland.

GOALS

1. Continue to grow Portland's economy.
2. Push for policies to make Portland more affordable for all residents.
3. Advocate effectively for Portland's families, schools, and businesses in both Augusta and Washington, DC.



TOM MACMILLAN

Website: www.tom4portland.org
Campaign Phone: 207-272-5833

Neighborhood: Parkside/West End
Current Job: Special Educational Technician (Ed Tech)

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I'm running for mayor to fight for justice. A better future will be created by ordinary people like you and me. I think people are more important than money. I've led the fight to end the 'war on drugs', protect public space and to ensure a living wage for workers.

GOALS

1. Make sure that all workers receive a Living Wage.
2. Cut taxes for most people and make big business pay their fair share.
3. Ensure sure all tenants and low income people have safe and affordable housing.



Mayoral Candidates



ETHAN STRIMLING

Website: www.ethanformayor.com
Campaign Phone: 207-828-8634

Home town: West End, District 2
Current Job: Director of Learning-Works.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am passionate about education. For 18 years I have been director of LearningWorks. As I speak with people, one thing is clear. There is a need for a leader who listens, collaborates and leads. I will bring people together into a brighter future for those struggling to get by.

GOALS

1. As Mayor of Portland, I will work to better fund our schools.
2. I will work to make housing more affordable and reduce the tax burden on families.
3. I will work for higher wages for everyone.

Thank You

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EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE



League of Women Voters of Portland Area (LWVPA)

Phone: 207-622-0256 **Website:** www.lwvme.org/portland.html

The League of Women Voters of Portland Area is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of Portland Area never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. LWVPA is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

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

And our Twitter feed: @LWVME



Join the League of Women Voters of Portland Area!

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** is one of the most respected groups directly involved in keeping citizens engaged in local, state, and national government.

Join today online at www.lwvme.org/join.html. Students and new members may join the League for just \$25 for the first year! Or mail your contact information and a check for \$55 for one membership, or \$82.50 for two members at the same household to:

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Portland, ME 04112-7904