



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

The State Voter

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The League of Women Voters of Maine, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major political policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Voter Registration is Easy in Maine

League members around the state help other Mainers register to vote. Residents of Maine may register to vote, in person, up to and including on Election Day at their town office, city hall, or polling place. Registration cards are applications for registration, and those completed elsewhere must be turned in to the registrant's municipal clerk's office by October 14, which is 21 days before the November 4 general election. This allows the clerk time to verify the registrant's information and accept the application. The new voter's name will then appear on the voter registration list on polling day. (The deadline for registrations cards mailed to the Secretary of State's office is 30 days before the election and has already past for this year.)

The registration process is simpler for someone already registered in Maine and just changing their address, name, or party affiliation – they just complete the application with the new information.

For new voters in Maine, some additional information is required. The registration card contains the following instructions for new voters: "NEW Maine voters must provide an applicable ID number" -- Maine driver's license/Maine State ID, or the last 4 digits of the applicant's Social Security number, or "none" if no ID number is available. New Maine voters who do not register in person should include a photocopy of their Maine driver's license or a utility bill or a government document that shows their name and address.

For new voters, voting in Maine for the first time, it may be a good idea to bring ID and proof of residency to the polls that first time, even if they've completed a voter registration card before. If their name does not appear on the voter list at the polls, they may be sent to a different polling place. Or they may find that their voter registration card is on file at the polling place to be completed and accepted on Election Day.

Even if a resident's registration is challenged by the clerk's office, that resident may complete an affidavit attesting to their qualifications to vote, and they may cast a challenged ballot, which will be counted along with all the other ballots and verified later in case of a close election.

Visit the League's web site at www.lwvme.org/elections.html for more information about voting and elections. See also the Voter Guide of the Maine Secretary of State at maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voterguide.html for detailed information about the registration process. Information about registration in other states is available through the League website at vote411.org.

- Martha Dickinson and Ann Luther, Downeast LWV