



MAKE YOUR

VOTE COUNT

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF MAINE EDUCATION FUND

WHY VOTE?

Why vote? You can help make important changes in the way your town, state, and country are governed.

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

Who can vote? First, you must register to vote. You can vote in Maine if you are:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Maine
- Age 18 or older

When is Election Day?

- General Election Day is the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- Primary Election Day is the second Tuesday in March or June, depending on the year.
- Sometimes general and primary elections are combined with city or town elections.
- City or town elections can happen at other times and are determined by the city or town.

What will I be voting for? You may choose candidates to run in a primary election. You may elect people to public office. You may vote yes or no on a question:

- Referendum — you choose to pass a law.
- Bond — you choose what projects will be funded with loans to the state.
- Constitutional amendment — you choose to approve the proposed change by the legislature.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN MAINE

How do I register to vote? You can register to vote in Maine if you are:

- An 18-year-old citizen of the United States residing in Maine.
- A 17-year-old citizen who will turn 18 by Election Day. You may then also vote in the June primary.
- If you are 16 years old, you can pre-register; your registration will become active when you are old enough to vote.
- Convicted of a crime or in jail. If you are in jail, you register to vote in the town where you lived before going to jail and vote by absentee ballot.
- If you do not have a regular address or a place to live, you can still register to vote.

You can register to vote in Maine:

- Online: You will need to submit your registration three weeks before Election Day so that your Town Clerk has time to process the application.
Register to vote online:
<https://registertovote.sos.maine.gov/>
- By mail: Your registration needs to be received by your city or town clerk by the Tuesday three weeks prior to the election.
- In person: At a voter registration drive; city or town hall; or at your voting place on Election Day. You must fill out a voter registration card (see pages 4-7 for more information).
- When you get a driver's license or state I.D. at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, you will automatically be registered to vote.

You will need to provide proof of identity and proof of residence in order to register to vote:

- Many kinds of photo I.D. will work, including student and tribal I.D., state I.D.s, and U.S. passports.
- A piece of mail can show your address.
- If you have no address, you can still register in person in the town where you stay.
- If you're in a jail, your voting address is in the town you lived in before you went to jail.

If you complete a voter registration card, be sure to complete the front and back of the card:

- Sign and date the card.
- You do not have to join a political party to vote. If you do not want to join a political party, check "Unenrolled" on the registration card.
- For detailed instructions, go to:

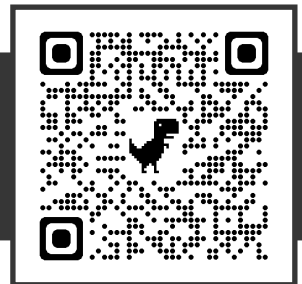
 maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html

What is a political party? A political party is a group of people who share similar 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 change your party registration. Examples of political parties are listed under "Party Affiliation" on the Voter Registration Card and on pages 8-9.



Use your phone to scan the QR code to learn more about how to register to vote in Maine.



REGISTRATION CARD



MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Federally required questions:

- ♦ Are you a citizen of the United States of America? * YES NO
 *If NO, DO NOT complete this application.
- 1 Are you at least 18 years of age? ** YES NO
 **If NO, are you at least 16 years of age to pre-register? YES NO

PARTY AFFILIATION

- 2
- Democratic
 Green Independent
 Libertarian
 No Labels
 Republican
 Unenrolled (no party choice)

3	LAST NAME (and suffix, if any)	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	4	DATE OF BIRTH MM - DD - YYYY
CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Physical address where you live)					
5a	STREET NAME AND NUMBER, <u>NOT</u> A P.O. BOX		CITY, TOWN, PLANTATION OR TOWNSHIP		
CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Complete if different from above address)					
5b	STREET NAME AND NUMBER, OR P.O. BOX, etc.		CITY/TOWN	ZIP CODE	
5c	Have you previously been registered to vote? If "YES", provide previous registration information below.			TELEPHONE (Optional)	
	CITY/TOWN	COUNTY	STATE		

COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD - PLEASE PRINT



Use your phone to scan the QR code to access the voter registration application online.



Voter Registration Card | INSTRUCTIONS

1 **ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.** Must answer yes to both to be able to register.

2 **PARTY.** Choose one of these listed possibilities: a Maine qualified party, an Other qualifying party, or Unenrolled. To learn more about Maine political parties, see pages 8-9.

3 **NAME.** Last Name and First Name or first initial and Middle Name.

4 **DATE OF BIRTH.** Must be 18 by Election Day to vote.

ADDRESS.

5a **Current Resident Address:**
Street or physical location. (Not a PO Box)

5b **Current Mailing Address:**
Only if different from residence address.
(Can be a PO Box)

5c **Previous Address:**
If you were registered before and have moved, you must say yes and provide your previous city, county, and state.

REGISTRATION CARD

MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

- COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD -

CHANGE OF NAME (Prior legal name, if applicable) LAST _____ FIRST _____ MIDDLE _____	VOTER ID: By federal law, NEW Maine voters must provide an applicable ID number as follows: 1. Your Maine driver's license/ Maine State ID; or 2. The last 4 digits of your Social Security number (ONLY if you don't have a Maine driver's license/ Maine State ID); or 3. Write "none" ONLY if you don't have either 1 or 2 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
SIGN AND DATE THIS CARD. I certify that all the information I have provided on this form is true. Signature of Applicant on line above _____ Date on line above _____	

6

7a

7b

7c

REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY: Date Received: _____ Ward-Precinct: _____
Source of Registration: In Person By Mail Agency BMV Voter Registration Drive/3rd Person
Type of Registration:
 NEW Maine Voter Registration Form of Proof for ID: _____ for Residency: _____
 Change of Existing Voter Registration (check boxes below) Form of Proof for Residency: _____
 Address Change to new municipality Address Change within municipality Party Enrollment Change
 Name Change Other Change _____
 Duplicate Application (no changes made)

8

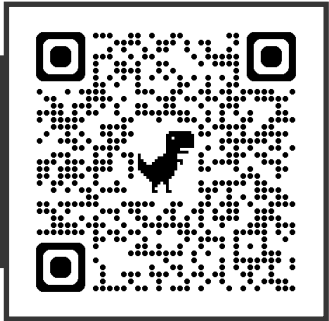
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Failure to complete this entire application may prevent registration.

- Deliver or mail this completed card to your municipal registrar or to the Division of Elections: #184 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0101. This properly completed application must be received by the municipal registrar 21 days or more before an election. **If less than 21 days before an election, you must register in person.**
- **If you are a NEW Maine voter and mail this card,** you must include a photocopy of your Maine driver's license, Maine State ID, or current utility bill, bank statement or government document that shows your name and address.
- For election information, call 207-624-7650 or visit www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/

(rev. 1/24)



Use your phone to scan the QR code to access the voter registration application online.



Voter Registration Card | INSTRUCTIONS

6 **VOTER'S SIGNATURE.** Must sign and date the card.

VOTER ID.

7a **Maine Driver's License # or Maine ID #:** New voters who have a valid I.D. must list one of these numbers.

7b **Social Security Number:** New voters who do not have a Maine license or I.D. must list the last 4 digits of their SSN.

7c **None:** Only voters who do not have a Maine license, I.D., or SSN, must write "None."

8 **REGISTRATION BY MAIL.** New voters who register by mail must provide a copy of their I.D. (e.g. Maine Driver's License) with the registration card and a document showing their address.

- Many kinds of photo I.D. will work, including student and tribal I.D., state I.D.s, and U.S. passports.
- A piece of mail can show your address.
- If you have no address, you can still register in person in the town where you stay.
- If you are in a jail, your voting address is in the town you lived in before you went to jail.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Maine Political Parties

Many voters choose to join a political party. Maine has five qualified political parties: the Democratic Party, Green Independent Party, Libertarian Party, No Labels, and Republican Party. There are also some smaller parties which voters may join. These smaller parties are not listed on the voter registration card and are not yet large enough to hold party primary elections. The lists of qualified parties and small parties sometimes change as parties get larger or smaller.

Party Primary Elections

The political parties have a special role to play in some elections, especially those for President, Governor, Congress, and State Legislature. Those offices actually have two elections — a primary election and a general election. Each political party holds a primary election to choose the candidate to represent the party later on in the general election. When a political party holds a primary election, only voters who are members of that political party are allowed to vote. Some local and county elected offices do not have primary elections.

Voters Not Enrolled in a Political Party

Voters do not have to join a political party. About one-third of Maine voters do not join a party. They are called “unenrolled” voters. Maine’s primaries are semi-open, and unenrolled voters may vote in a primary election of their choice. They can also vote for candidates and ballot questions in general elections.

Some political parties are not yet large enough to be listed on the voter registration card or to have their own primaries. These smaller parties may enroll voters and help their candidates get on the general election ballot. Examples

of small parties include the Alliance Party, the Yankee Party, and the Socialist Party. Small parties may be called “qualifying parties.”

Joining a Political Party

Voters can choose a political party when they register to vote. They are allowed to switch parties or to become unenrolled, but must wait 90 days after their last registration. Voters who leave a political party can no longer vote in the primary elections held by that party.

If you want to change your political party or unenroll ahead of an election, you have 15 days ahead of Election Day. New voters can register to vote anytime, including Election Day!

In 2024, there are five qualified political parties in Maine:


Maine Democratic Party

 www.mainedems.org

 (207) 622-6233


Maine Green Independent Party

 www.mainegreens.org

 (207) 518-7493

Maine Libertarian Party

 www.lpme.org

 (207) 518-7493

Maine Republican Party

 www.MaineGOP.com

 (207) 622-6247

No Labels Party

 www.nolabels.org

 (202) 588-1990

BEFORE YOU VOTE

Where do I go to vote? To find out where you vote:

- Call your city hall or town office.
- Go to: www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php
- Vote by absentee ballot (see page 12).

What time can I vote? Voting places open between 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM on Election Day. The opening time is not the same for all cities and towns. All voting places close at 8:00 PM. Closing times will vary in city or town elections.

How can I avoid the crowds? Voting places tend to be less crowded from 10:00–11:30 AM and 1:30–3:30 PM.

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

- The election clerk will help you.
- You may need to register to vote.
- You may be sent to a different voting place.
- You may need to vote a challenged ballot.

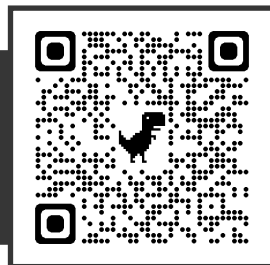
Do I need an I.D. (Identification Card)? You should bring your I.D. and proof of your address (example is driver's license and electric bill) if:

- You are a first-time voter.
- You have moved.
- You need to register to vote on Election Day.

Don't worry — no eligible voter can be turned away.



Use your phone to scan the QR code to find your polling place.



AT MY VOTING PLACE

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 address. Your name will be on a list if you are registered to vote.

- The election clerk will give you a ballot or ballots.
- A ballot is the paper on which you mark your votes.
- You will go into a private voting booth and complete your ballot.
- You will put the ballot in the ballot box or a machine.

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. You will not be the only one with questions!

How do I fill out the ballot?

- Each ballot tells you how to mark your choices.
- If you have a question, ask an election clerk.
- You do not have to vote for everything. Only the parts you vote on will count.
- Check your ballot.
- 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.
- The ExpressVote system will be available if you want to see a large print ballot or hear a ballot read to you.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

What is absentee voting?

- You do not have to go to your voting place on Election Day to vote.
- Complete an absentee ballot at home and mail it to your city or town clerk.
- Complete an absentee ballot in person at your city or town office.

If you are registered to vote, you can ask for an absentee ballot. You must do so by the Thursday before the election.

How do I get an absentee ballot?

- Ask for an absentee ballot from your city or town office. Absentee ballots are usually available 30 days before the election.
- Request an absentee ballot online from the Division of Elections at: [🔗 maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl](https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl)
- You can also ask for an absentee ballot for an immediate family member. The city hall or town 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 on every question. It is okay to leave questions blank.
- Do not forget to sign and date the envelope.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to your city/town clerk's office by 8:00 PM on Election Day.
- Your town may have a ballot dropbox outside the town hall so that you can return your ballot without mailing it.

What if I miss the open window to request my absentee ballot? How do I request an absentee ballot after the Thursday before the election? You must complete a special application for one of these reasons:

- You will be out of town unexpectedly all day on Election Day.
- You have a disability.
- You live on an island and are unable to get to the voting place on Election Day.
- You have an illness and cannot leave home or treatment facility.

Your city or town clerk must receive your absentee ballot by 8:00 PM on Election Day.

Ongoing Absentee Voting

If you are 65+ years old and/or live with a disability, you qualify to apply for ongoing absentee voter status. This means you can apply to have an absentee ballot sent to you automatically for each election cycle. You only have to apply once! Contact your Town Clerk to sign up for this service.

Accessible Ballots

Voters can request an absentee paper ballot to vote via mail, or for voters with print disabilities (such as vision impairment or blindness, physical dexterity limitations, learning disabilities or cognitive impairment), you can request an electronic accessible ballot that will be sent to your email address.

Accessible ballots are available to voters at least 30 days before Election Day.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

Ranked Choice Voting lets voters rank the candidates in order of preference.

How does Ranked Choice Voting work?

- Voters rank candidates in the order of their preference: first choice, second choice, third choice, and so on.
- When all the ballots are counted, if one candidate gets more than 50% of the first choice votes, they win.
- If no candidate receives more than 50% of first choice votes, the candidate with fewest votes is considered defeated.
- Voters who ranked the defeated candidate as their first choice have their votes counted for their second choice.
- This is repeated until only two candidates remain. The one with the most votes wins.




Why should I rank my vote?

- If your first choice is defeated, your ballot will still count for your next highest choice.
- You can't hurt your favorite candidate by also ranking the other candidates. Those choices only count if your first choice is defeated.
- You can't help your favorite candidate by ranking only one candidate. Your first choice will always count if your favorite candidate has not been defeated.

How do I avoid mistakes on my ballot?

- Mark only one oval per row.
- Mark only one oval per column.
- Rank as many candidates as you like.
- You do not need to rank any candidate that you do not support.
- If you make a mistake, ask the clerk for a new ballot.
- Ask for help. You won't be the only one with questions.

Here is an example of how to rank your preferred candidates:

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
 Candidate One	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
 Candidate Two	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
 Candidate Three	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

ABOVE: In this example, Candidate Two is the 1st choice, and the bubble next to this has been filled in. Candidate One is the 2nd Choice. Candidate Three is the 3rd Choice.

If you are certain of your top choice and only want to vote for Candidate Two, then you only have to fill in the “1st Choice” bubble. You may leave the rest blank.

If you only wanted to rank 2 out of the 3 candidates, then you would fill in the bubbles for “1st Choice” and “2nd Choice” but you may leave “3rd Choice” blank.

MORE INFORMATION

How do I find my city or town clerk? You can find the address and phone number for your city or town clerk at: maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.html

You can also contact:

- ☑ Office of the Secretary of State
Division of Elections
101 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0101
- ☎ (207) 624-7650
- @ cec.elections@maine.gov
- 🔗 maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/index.html



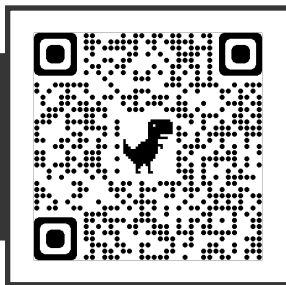
If you want to feel informed and confident when you vote, check out your personalized voting information on

🔗 Vote411.org. It's quick and easy:

- See what's on your ballot
- Check your voter registration
- Find your polling place
- See where candidates stand on the issues
- And much more!



Use your phone to scan the QR code to visit Vote411.org.



The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund conducts voter service and citizen education activities. It is a nonpartisan, nonprofit public policy educational organization which:

- Builds citizen participation in the democratic process.
- Studies key community issues at all government levels in an unbiased manner.
- Enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

No explanations of the voting process reflect the views of League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund or its distribution partners, including schools, libraries, nonprofit agencies, or other organizations.

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