

# EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE

Maine 2018 General Election - November 6, 2018

## STATEWIDE CANDIDATES & ISSUES

VOTE  
NOV. 6



### *What's inside:*

- 3** About this Guide
- 5** Why Vote?
- 6** Registering to Vote
- 8** Political Parties
- 10** Before Voting
- 11** At the Voting Place
- 12** ExpressVote System
- 13** Ranked Choice Voting
- 14** Sample Ballots
- 16** Absentee Ballots
- 18** Candidates for Governor
- 20** Candidates for U.S. Senator
- 22** Candidates for U.S. Representative
- 26** Citizen Initiatives / Bond Issues



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WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MAINE  
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# ★ Why Vote?

## ★ Why vote?

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

## ★ Is my vote private?

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

## ★ Who can vote?

You can vote in Maine if you are:

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

***You must first register to vote. Read about how to register on the next page.***

## ★ What will I be voting for?

On Election Day, Maine voters will choose:

- Maine Governor
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Officials for county offices
- Officials for local offices in some towns

***More about candidates on pages 18-25.***

Maine voters will answer Yes or No to citizen initiative and bond questions:

- There is one initiative — voters choose whether to pass a new law.
- There are four bond questions — voters decide if the state can borrow money to pay for certain projects.
- There are local issues in some towns.

***More on ballot questions on pages 26-31.***

## ★ When is Election Day?

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 6, 2018.**

# ★ Registering to Vote

## ★ 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.

People convicted of a crime or in jail can still vote. If you are in jail, you register to vote in the town where you lived before going to jail and vote by absentee ballot.

***More information about absentee ballots on page 16.***

People who are homeless can still vote. If you are homeless, you register to vote using the location where you sleep. This location could be a shelter, a friend's place, or outside.

## ★ You can register to vote for the November 6 election:

- By mail. *Your registration needs to be received by your town clerk by October 16, 2018.*
- At a voter registration drive by October 15. *Registrations need to be received by your town clerk by October 16, 2018.*
- At a Bureau of Motor Vehicles office by October 5. *Registrations need to be received by your town clerk by October 16, 2018.*
- In person at your city hall or town office anytime, up to and including Election Day, November 6, 2018.
- At your voting place on Election Day, November 6, 2018.

## ★ You must fill out a voter registration card:

- Complete both 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. **More information about political parties on page 8.***
- You must be a member of a party to vote in the primary election for that party.

*For detailed instructions, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html>*

# ★ Voter Registration Card

★ This is an example of a voter registration card

MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION				PARTY AFFILIATION	
<b>Federally required questions:</b>					
♦ Are you a citizen of the United States of America?				<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
♦ Will you be 18 years of age on or before Election Day?				<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
If you checked "no" in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form. You must be a U.S. citizen in order to vote.				<input type="checkbox"/> Unenrolled (no party choice)	
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	DATE OF BIRTH MM / DD / YYYY		
<b>CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Physical address where you live)</b>					
STREET NAME AND NUMBER, <u>NOT</u> A P.O. BOX			CITY, TOWN, PLANTATION OR TOWNSHIP		
<b>CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Complete if different from above address)</b>					
STREET NAME AND NUMBER, OR P.O. BOX, etc.			CITY/TOWN		ZIP CODE
<b>Have you previously been registered to vote?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If the answer is "yes" provide address of previous registration below.					TELEPHONE (Optional)
CITY/TOWN		COUNTY		STATE	
<b>COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD – PLEASE PRINT</b>					

MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION			
- COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD -			
<b>CHANGE OF NAME</b> (Prior legal name, if applicable) LAST _____ FIRST _____ MIDDLE _____ <b>SIGN AND DATE THIS CARD.</b> I certify that all the information I have provided on this form is true. Signature of Applicant on line above _____ Date on line above _____		<b>VOTER ID:</b> By federal law, <b>NEW Maine voters</b> must provide an applicable ID number as follows: 1. Your <b>Maine</b> driver's license/ <b>Maine</b> State ID; or 2. The last 4 digits of your Social Security number (ONLY if you don't have a <b>Maine</b> driver's license/ <b>Maine</b> State ID); or 3. Write "none" ONLY if you don't have either 1 or 2. _____	
<b>REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY:</b> Date Received: _____ Ward-Precinct: _____ - _____ Source of Registration: <input type="checkbox"/> In Person <input type="checkbox"/> By Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Agency <input type="checkbox"/> BMV <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration Drive/3 <sup>rd</sup> Person Type of Registration: <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEW</b> Maine Voter Registration Form of Proof for ID: _____ for Residency: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Change of Existing Voter Registration</b> (check boxes below) Form of Proof for Residency: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change to new municipality <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change within municipality <input type="checkbox"/> Party Enrollment Change <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change <input type="checkbox"/> Other Change _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Duplicate Application</b> (no changes made)			
<b>INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:</b> 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: #101 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. <u>If less than 21 days before an election, you must register in person.</u> • <u>If you are a NEW Maine voter and mail this card</u> , 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 <a href="http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/">www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/</a> (rev. 01/17)			

# ★ Political Parties

## ★ What is a political party?

A political party is a group of people who share similar ideas about how government should work.

When you register to vote, you can join a political party if you want. It does not cost any money. You can also fill out a new voter registration card to change your party registration.

Examples of political parties include the **Democratic** Party, the **Green Independent** Party, the **Libertarian** Party, and the **Republican** Party.

## ★ You do not need to join a political party to vote in the November general election.

- You do not need to join a political party to vote in municipal elections or in special referendum elections.
- You **do need** to join a political party to vote for candidates in a June primary election.

## ★ How do I join a political party?

- You join a political party using the voter registration card.
- If you do not belong to a party, you may join a party anytime, including on Election Day.
- You must remain a member of the party for at least three months.

# ★ Political Parties

## ★ What do Maine's qualified political parties stand for?

The following statements are provided by the political parties:

### Maine Democratic Party

"Government should work for all Mainers. Everyone should have a fair shot at success. Our values lead us in our work. We fight for health care for everyone, strong schools everywhere, and an economy that works for all Mainers."

#### TOP PRIORITIES

1. An economy that works for everyone.
2. Health care for all.
3. Fairness and equality.

#### LEARN MORE

Website: [MaineDems.org](http://MaineDems.org)

Phone: 207-622-6233

### Maine Green Independent Party

"The Maine Green Party is based on Ten Key Values: Grassroots Democracy; Social Justice and Equal Opportunity; Ecological Wisdom; Non-Violence; Decentralization; Community-Based Economics and Economic Justice; Gender Equality; Respect for Diversity; Personal and Global Responsibility; and Future Focus and Sustainability."

#### TOP PRIORITIES

1. Sustainable Jobs for the People of Maine.
2. Climate Change and Social Justice.
3. People, Peace, and Planet over Profit.

#### LEARN MORE

Website: [MaineGreens.org](http://MaineGreens.org)

Phone: 207-284-3358

### Libertarian Party of Maine

"Libertarians value the right of all to live in whatever manner they choose, as long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose."

#### TOP PRIORITIES

1. End endless wars.
2. End endless government debt.
3. Prison and drug law reform.

#### LEARN MORE

Website: [LPME.org](http://LPME.org)

Phone: 207-841-1129

### Maine Republican Party

"The Maine Republican Party is committed to individual liberty; religious freedom; low and fair taxes; equality of opportunity for all; affordable government; strengthening families and communities; protecting the Constitution; and the safety of the American people."

#### TOP PRIORITIES

1. Job creation, economic growth, and increased prosperity.
2. Security and safety.
3. Individual & religious liberty.

#### LEARN MORE

Website: [MaineGOP.org](http://MaineGOP.org)

Phone: 207-622-6247

# ★ Before Voting

## ★ Where do I go to vote?

Each town has at least one voting place. To find out where to vote:

- Call your city hall or town office.
- Go to [http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter\\_lookup.php](http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php)
- Vote by absentee ballot. **More information about absentee ballots on page 16.**

## ★ What time do I vote?

Most voting places open at 7:00 a.m. on Election Day. The opening time is not the same for all cities and towns. Contact your town clerk if you have any questions.

**All voting places close at 8:00 p.m.**

## ★ How can I avoid the crowds at my voting place?

Voting places are less crowded from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

- The people working at the voting place will help you.
- You may need to register to vote.
- You may be sent to a different voting place.
- If your problem is not solved, you can ask to vote with a **“challenged ballot.”** *Your vote will count on Election Day. Your problem can be solved later.*

## ★ Do I need an ID (identification card)?

No. Registered Maine voters do not need to show ID to vote.

**BUT**, you should bring your ID and proof of your address (example is a 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.**

# ★ At the Voting Place

## ★ What will I do at the voting place?

- Go to the election clerk. Give your name and address.
- If you are registered to vote, your name will be on the list.
- The election clerk will give you a ballot or ballots.
- A ballot is the paper where you mark your votes.
- You will go into a private voting booth and mark your ballot.
- When you are done, you will put the ballot into 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.
- You will be using ranked choice voting for some candidate elections. You can rank as many candidates as you wish. Or you can rank only one.
- 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 have made a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot.

## ★ What if I can't read the ballot?

You can get help from:

- A friend or a relative. *Your helper does not have to be a voter. Your helper does not have to be old enough to vote.*
- An election worker.

Your employer or union official cannot help you vote.

A special machine is available if you want to see a large print ballot or hear a ballot read to you. ***More information about this on the next page.***



# ★ ExpressVote System

## ★ What is ExpressVote?

ExpressVote is for people who may have difficulty reading a ballot. It is a device that can be used to help you read or hear your ballot and fill it out.

## ★ Can I use ExpressVote at my polling place?

Yes, you can use ExpressVote at any voting place.

- Tell the election clerk at your voting place you want to use ExpressVote.
- The election clerk will set up the ExpressVote for you to use.

## ★ How does ExpressVote work?

- ExpressVote has a video display screen and built-in ballot printer.
- The ballot can be seen in large print.
- The ballot can be read to you through headphones that are provided.

## ★ How do I make my selections with ExpressVote?

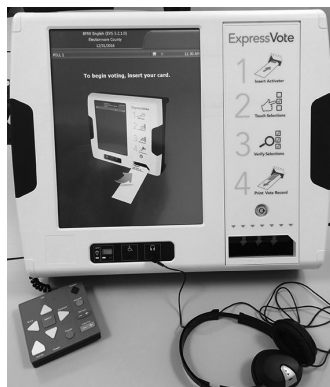
You can make your selections by:

- Touching the screen.
- Using a keypad with different-shaped, colored buttons with braille labels.
- Using a switch with a green YES or a red NO.

When you are done the device prints a ballot marked with your choices.

You put your ballot into the ballot box or counting machine.

For more information on the ExpressVote system visit  
<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/accessiblevoting.html>



*This is a tabletop ExpressVote unit,  
with a keypad and headphones.*

# ★ 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, he or she wins.
- If no candidate receives more than 50% of first choice votes, the candidate with fewest votes is 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 whom 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.

## ★ Which races will have ranked choice voting this November?

Ranked choice voting will be used in the November 6, 2018 election for:

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. Congressional District 1
- U.S. Congressional District 2

**Ranked choice voting will not be used for other offices in November 2018.** We will not be using ranked choice voting for governor or for Maine state legislative races.

# ★ Sample Ballot — 1<sup>st</sup> District

★ This is a sample ranked choice ballot for the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.

## Instructions to Voters

To vote, fill in the oval like this ●

To rank your candidate choices, fill in the oval:

- In the 1st column for your 1st choice candidate.
- In the 2nd column for your 2nd choice candidate, and so on.

Continue until you have ranked as many or as few candidates as you like.

Fill in no more than one oval for each candidate or column.

To rank a write-in candidate, write the person's name in the write-in space and fill in the oval for the ranking of your choice.

U.S. Senator	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
<b>Brakey, Eric L.</b> Auburn Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>King, Angus S., Jr.</b> Brunswick Independent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Ringelstein, Zak</b> Yarmouth Democratic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Write-in</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Rep. to Congress District 1	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
<b>Grohman, Martin J.</b> Biddeford Independent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Holbrook, Mark I.</b> Brunswick Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Pingree, Chellie</b> North Haven Democratic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Write-in</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# ★ Absentee Ballots

## ★ What is absentee voting?

If you want to vote before Election Day, you can use an absentee ballot.

If you are registered to vote, you can ask for an absentee ballot. **You must do so by Thursday, November 1, 2018.**

Absentee ballots are available starting 30 days before the election. That is around October 8, 2018.

## ★ How do I get an absentee ballot?

- You do not need a reason to request an absentee ballot by Thursday, November 1.
- You can ask for an absentee ballot from your city hall or town clerk.
- You can request an absentee ballot at this link: <https://maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>
- You can also ask for an absentee ballot for an immediate family member. Your city hall or town clerk's office will be able to tell you who is considered an immediate family member.
- Uniformed service members and overseas voters have different instructions. Follow instructions from the Maine Secretary of State here: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/uocava.html>

## ★ What do I do with my absentee ballot?

- Fill out the ballot.
- Put it in the special envelope and sign the envelope.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to your city or town clerk before Election Day. **Ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.**

## ★ How do I request an absentee ballot after Thursday, November 1, 2018?

It is harder to get an absentee ballot after the Thursday before the election.

To get an absentee ballot after the Thursday before the election, go in person to your city hall or town office and complete a special application. Your application must include one of the following 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 a treatment facility.

**Your city or town clerk must receive your absentee ballot by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 6, 2018.**