



Vote on Nov 7th and Join Us on Nov 15th...

Political Parties: What's Going On?

Come One, Come All, Bring Guests!

What: A discussion about the role of political parties

When: Nov 15, 2017 from 5:45–7:45 pm

Where: American Legion Post 164 ([directions](#))

[65 Depot Road](#)

[Falmouth, ME 04105](#)

[Maine](#) now has 4 recognized political parties. Partisanship is high locally and nationally. **Bowdoin Professor, Andrew Rudalevige**, will start the conversation with a political scientist's overview of political parties in the US – what roles do they play, how have they changed over time, what historical perspective can we bring to the tumultuous times in which we live?

Then, we will hear from representatives of Maine's 4 parties: **Democrat Sarah Alexander, Green Independent Jon Olsen, Libertarian Chris Lyons, and Republican Barbara Campbell Harvey**. What is most beneficial about party affiliation? Do the parties serve as effective organizers for voters during campaigns and elections? Do they operate effectively in government? If they had a magic wand, what kind of primary would they choose?

Join us! Light refreshments provided. Members and guests are welcomed. RSVP to: peg.balano@gmail.com

**Reminder: State and Local Ballot and Bond Issues for
Nov 7th**



For background and general information on the four State Ballot and Bond issues, refer to the [LWVME Voters' Guide](#):

- (1) York County Casino
- (2) Expanding access to Affordable Health Care
- (3) General Fund Bond to improve transportation infrastructure
- (4) Maine Constitutional Amendment concerning State Pension Funds

For help in understanding the questions on the Portland City Ballot covering the following issues, look at the [sample ballot](#) and local newspapers for pro/con positions.

- (1) Rent control
- (2) Zoning change procedures
- (3) Bond funding for improvements in four elementary school buildings
- (4) Bond funding for improvements in two elementary school buildings

Both the State and City Ballot Questions are complex so we advise reviewing the pros/cons before you get to the polling place. Also remember that municipal positions such as City Councilors and members of the Board of Education are also on the local ballot.

Improvements in our political system start at home so be sure to learn about the ballot issues and candidates in your voting district before November 7th.

"Setting the Table for Civility" over the Holidays

The LWVPA continued its efforts to promote civil discourse at all levels on October 18th by successfully conducting its third civil discourse facilitator training session.

Moving forward, the LWVME is partnering with the [National Institute for Civil](#)

[Discourse](#) on their "[Setting the Table for Civility](#)" activity. It is an opportunity for individuals, as we gather with friends and family for the upcoming Thanksgiving and year-end holiday season, to take action to promote civility. These include exploring three basic questions:

- What are you most thankful for about living in America?
- How do you feel about the deep divisions and incivility we see now in our country?
- How can we revive civility and respect, find more effective ways to listen to each other, and work together?

[Tools and materials](#) are available to support conversations at family gatherings, within faith communities, on campuses and on social media. This could be a great way to engage new members and to invite non-members to join the League in an activity that brings people together and helps us build more civil dialogue in communities.

Upcoming Dates to Note on Your Calendars

Date	Time	Activity and
11/9	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Open Board Meeting – bring your dinner! Martin's Point, Jewell Room
11/15	5:45 – 7:45 pm	Political Parties: What's Going On? American Legion Hall, Falmouth
12/6	to be announced	Celebration for new members Hold the date...details coming Soon.

Voter Registration

National Voter Registration Day totals are in. The League conducted 11 events in the Bangor, Downeast, and Portland Area, and registered 50 new voters at high schools, colleges and farmers markets.

We continue to attend Nationalization Ceremonies and register new citizens to vote following their ceremony. So far this year, we have registered 364 new voters (49% of new citizens), and there are four more ceremonies scheduled in 2017. For the first time, we will be attending a ceremony at the Hall of Flags, in the Maine State House in Augusta, which should be lovely. For more information, or to volunteer, contact peg.balano@gmail.com.

Are you are looking to get more involved? [*Click here for a list of ways to make a difference.*](#)