EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE

Maine General Election

November 8, 2016



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About This Guide



The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund produced this Easy-to-Read Voter Guide for the 2016 General Election. We printed and gave away 50,000 copies in Maine. This information is nonpartisan. This means we do not endorse or support any candidate or position on the ballot questions.

All candidate statements are provided directly by the candidates and not edited by the League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund. No candidate statements or explanations of citizen initiatives and bond issues 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

A PDF version of this voter guide is available online under publications at: www.lwvme.org/VoterGuide.html

If you have questions, call 207-622-0256 or email us at: voterguide@lwvme.org

VOTE411

The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund is participating in VOTE411. Maine voters can compare candidates for U.S. Congressional seats and for U.S. President side-by-side. The Maine citizen initiatives and bond issues will also be available on VOTE411.org. For more election information go to: http://www.VOTE411.org



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?

You must first 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



What will I be voting for?

On Election Day, Maine voters will choose (more on pages 10-15):

- President of the United States
- U.S. Representative
- State legislative offices and local issues and offices

Maine voters will answer Yes or No to citizen initiative and bond questions, including (more on pages 16-22):

- Five citizen initiative questions voters choose to pass them into laws
- One bond question voters choose what projects will be funded with loans to the state

When is Election Day? Tuesday, November 8, 2016, is General Election Day.

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
- 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.
- Homeless

You can register to vote in Maine:

- In person at a voter registration drive or Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) office by Tuesday, October 11, 2016
- In person at your city or town hall up to Election Day
- In person at your voting place on Election Day
- By mail, which must be received by your city or town clerk by Tuesday, October 18, 2016

You must fill out a voter registration card.

You must 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: http://www.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 include: Democratic, Maine Green Independent, and Republican.

Before Voting

Where do I go to vote?

To find out where you vote:

- Call your city hall or town office.
- Go to http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php
- Vote by absentee ballot (more information on page 8).



What time can I vote?

Voting places open between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Election Day. The opening time is not the same for all cities and towns.

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



How can I avoid the crowds?

Voting places tend to be less crowded from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.



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.

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At the 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.



- 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 (more on page 7).

The Express Voting System



What is ExpressVote?

The ExpressVote ballot-marking device, a tabletop unit shown below, replaced the Vote-By-Phone system.





Can I use ExpressVote at my 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 will be provided.

You make selections by:

- Touching the screen
- Using a key pad with different-shaped colored buttons with Braille labels
- Toggle switch with a green Yes or a red No
- When you are done the system prints a ballot marked with your choices.
- You put your ballot in the ballot box or machine.



For more information on the ExpressVote system visit:

http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/accessiblevoting.html

★ ★

Absentee Ballots

What is absentee voting?

- You don't have to go to your voting place on Election Day to vote.
- Complete an absentee ballot at home and mail or deliver 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, November 3, 2016.



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 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 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 don't have to vote on every question. It is okay to leave questions blank.
- Mail or deliver your ballot to your city/town clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

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 p.m. on Election Day.

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: http://www.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

Phone: 207-624-7650 Email: cec.elections@maine.gov Website: http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/index.html



Is there a way to see the ballot before the election?

You can print it from the website: http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php



For more Maine ballot details

Go to the Citizen's Guide at:

http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/index.html

U.S. President's Job Description

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Term (years to serve): Four years (Limit of two terms) Salary: \$400,000

The President is the Chief Executive of the U.S. government and the Commander in Chief of all the military forces. As Chief Executive, the President: enforces laws, treaties, and court rulings; develops federal policies; prepares the national budget; and appoints federal officials. The President also approves or vetoes acts of Congress and grants pardons. As Commander in Chief, the President has the authority to send troops into combat. The Constitution and federal law describe the powers of the President.

The election of President of the United States is an indirect election. The popular vote chooses delegates or electors to the Electoral College, which elects the President. The Electoral College has 538 electors. States have an elector for each member of Congress. States have two electors for their two Senators and one for each member of the House of Representatives (based on the state's population.) Maine has four electors. The President must be at least 35 years old. He or she must be a natural-born citizen of the United States and have lived in the United States at least 14 years.



HILLARY CLINTON



GARY JOHNSON



JILL STEIN



DONALD TRUMP

U.S. Presidential Candidates



HILLARY CLINTON

Party: Democratic Website: <u>http://www.hillaryclinton.com</u> Campaign Phone: (646) 854-1432 Email: info@hillaryclinton.com

Campaign Address:

Hillary for America PO Box 5256 New York, NY 10185

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I'm running for President to make a difference in the lives of all Americans. I'll build an economy that works for everyone, continue my fight for children and families, and work to keep our country safe. And I'll unite Americans to take on all the challenges we face—because we're stronger together.

GOALS

- 1. Grow and strengthen our economy.
- 2. Curb the outsized influence of big money in American politics.
- 3. Ensure we have the partnerships to keep our country safe.



GARY JOHNSON

Party: Libertarian Website: http://www.johnsonweld.com Campaign Phone: (801) 303-8922 Email: Info@JohnsonWeld.com

Campaign Address:

JohnsonWeld PO Box 4422 Salt Lake City, UT 84110

PERSONAL STATEMENT	Goals
I am Governor Gary Johnson and along with my running mate Governor William Weld we are honored to accept the invitation of the League of Women Voters to participate in their efforts to inform the voting American public of all options available to them during this Presidential election year.	 Provide Congress a balanced budget within the first 100 days of office. Reduce (and in some cases eliminate) our military footprint abroad. Liberalize trade and economic activity.

U.S. Presidential Candidates



JILL STEIN

Party: Green Website: <u>http://www.jill2016.com</u> Campaign Phone: (347) 425-1910 Email: info@jill2016.com Campaign Address: Dr. Jill Stein 318 Franklin Ave Brooklyn, NY 11238

PERSONAL STATEMENT

After a career in clinical medicine, I am now practicing political medicine, running for President to help heal our ailing nation. Your vote for me sends a clear signal that you want a new, principled politics that puts people, planet and peace over profit.

GOALS

- 1. Green job-creation to fight climate change.
- 2. A fair economy that eliminates unemployment.
- 3. Justice, true democracy, and respect for all human beings.



DONALD TRUMP

Party: Republican Website: http://www.donaldjtrump.com/ Campaign Phone: (646) 736-1779 Email: info@donaldtrump.com

Campaign Address:

Donald J. Trump for President, INC 725 Fifth Ave New York, NY 10022

PERSONAL STATEMENT	GOALS
The government of the US should be focused on serving the people of this great nation, not special interests. The government now rules rather than governs. The American people want their government back and together we will make America great again.	 Secure our nation by restoring our leadership in the world. Restore economic growth thru tax, trade, immigration, & energy reform. Restore Constitutional limits on government.

US Representative's Job Description

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE: DISTRICT 1 & DISTRICT 2

(Member of the House of Representatives)

Term (years to serve): Two years Salary: \$174,000

Members of the House of Representatives write and pass the nation's laws. They share this job with the Senate. They research important issues and hold public hearings. Bills that raise money for any government program start in the House and must also be passed by the Senate.

The United States is divided into 435 congressional districts. The districts are based on the number of people in the state. Every state has at least one member of the House of Representatives. Maine has two. All members of the House are elected in even-numbered years. Voters can elect a Representative for as many terms as they choose. A Representative must be at least 25 years old. He or she must be a citizen of the United States for at least 7 years.



MARK HOLBROOK



CHELLIE PINGREE



EMILY CAIN



BRUCE POLIQUIN

EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE

US Rep District 1 Candidates



MARK HOLBROOK

Party: Republican Website: www.holbrook2016.net Campaign Phone: 207-751-4036

Home town: Brunswick, ME Current Job: Self-Employed

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Candidate did not provide information.

GOALS

Candidate did not provide information.



CHELLIE PINGREE

Party: Democratic Website: www.pingreeforcongress.com Current Job: Member of Congress Campaign Phone: 207-773-0155

Home Town: North Haven, ME

PERSONAL STATEMENT	Goals
I know that people in Maine work hard every day. That's why I work hard in Washington to fight for the people of Maine. I am working to protect Medicare and Social Security. And I'm fighting to make sure that women are paid the same as men.	 Increase economic opportunities in Mainegood paying jobs for Maine people.
	Making sure that women are paid the same as their male counterparts.
	Protect and strengthen Medicare and Social Security.

US Rep District 2 Candidates



EMILY CAIN

Party: Democratic Website: http://emilycain.com Campaign Phone: 207-944-7396 Home town: Orono, ME **Current Job:** Higher Education Consultant

PERSONAL STATEMENT GOALS Maine's working families and small businesses have been left behind by self-serving politicians. I want to break the gridlock, end special interest tax breaks for companies that outsource our jobs, and block trade deals that send our jobs overseas.

- 1. An economy with good jobs with benefits.
- 2. No cuts to the VA, Social Security or Medicare.
- 3. Be honest, work hard, work with all parties.



BRUCE POLIQUIN

Party: Republican Home town: Oakland, ME Website: www.poliquinforcongress.com Current Job: Member of Congress Campaign Phone: 207-716-1412

PERSONAL STATEMENT	Goals
Congressman Bruce Poliquin is a third generation Mainer who grew up in Central Maine. As a single father, he understands how difficult it is to balance family and work. That's why, he is working to protect and create jobs. Congressman Poliquin is truly honored to be your representative in Congress.	 Continue to protect and grow jobs. Continue work to curb the opioid epidemic. Continue to strengthen our national defense.

Citizen Initiatives / Bond Issues

What is a citizen initiative?

- Any Maine registered voter can create a citizen initiative, which is a proposed law.
- The voter must submit an application. It has to include the full text of the proposed law.
- If the application is approved, a petition form is created by the Secretary of State. The petition needs to be signed by Maine voters.
- In 2016, the petition must have 61,123 valid signatures to be put on the ballot (10% of the total votes for Governor in the 2014 election).
- Before the initiative is placed on the ballot, the Maine legislature has the chance to pass the proposed law.
- If the legislature does not pass the law, the initiative is placed on the ballot. Then Maine voters will vote for or against the proposed law.

★ What is a bond?

- The State of Maine borrows money by issuing bonds.
- The State pays interest on the amount it borrows.
- The people must vote on the ballot to approve the bonds issued by the State of Maine.
- If the voters approve the bond, the Treasurer sells the bonds to fund the projects. These projects might include roads, bridges, schools, clean water, and research.
- The State pays back the amount it borrows plus interest within a fixed time period (usually ten years).

How does a bond issue work?

• As a citizen, you get to choose which projects the State will fund by voting for or against a bond issue.

What is the financial impact of passing these bonds?

- The State's total budget for next year is nearly \$4 billion.
- The total increase in Maine's debt if the bond issue passes would be \$133 million.
- The State of Maine currently owes \$522 million in outstanding debt.
- There is an additional \$149 million in authorized but unissued bonds.
- The money to repay the bonds every year comes out of the State's General Fund and/or Highway Fund.
- These payments must be made. This decreases the money that the Maine Legislature has to allocate for other projects.

BALLOT QUESTION 1: Citizen Initiative

An Act to Legalize Marijuana

"Do you want to allow the possession and use of marijuana under state law by persons who are at least 21 years of age, and allow the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing, and sale of marijuana and marijuana products subject to state regulation, taxation and local ordinance?"

What this question means:

This initiative allows adults (21 or older) to have or grow a limited amount of marijuana. It will create rules for the sale, testing, production, and transportation of marijuana and related products by licensed businesses. Cities and towns will have the right to prohibit marijuana businesses. A 10% tax on recreational marijuana sales will help put rules and regulations in place and enforce them. Using marijuana in public will still be illegal.

Argument for **YES**:

- It will legalize recreational marijuana.
- It may help our economy and create jobs.
- Taxing marijuana sales may increase state and local revenue.
- It could help Maine be safer by only selling to adults with ID's. Rules will create a system of licensed businesses that will test, label and package products to ensure products are safe.
- Law enforcement can focus on more serious crimes.
- It may reduce the underground market for marijuana.
- It may reduce the prison population.

- The recreational use of marijuana should remain illegal.
- It may harm the local medical marijuana community by affecting patients' relationships and making marijuana a big business.
- Spreading of "pot shops" may increase youth exposure to marijuana. It could increase its use among vulnerable populations.
- The 10% tax may not be enough to cover expenses to put rules in place and enforce them.

BALLOT QUESTION 2: Citizen Initiative

An Act to Establish the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

"Do you want to add a 3% tax on individual Maine taxable income above \$200,000 to create a state fund that would provide direct support for student learning in kindergarten through 12th grade public education?"

What this question means:

This initiative would increase state funding for K-12 education by placing a 3% tax on people with income above \$200,000. Under Maine law, the state and cities/towns share in the cost of K-12 education funding. This added funding would help the state meet the target of funding 55% of the overall cost of K-12 education.

Argument for **YES**:

- The public supports the state paying 55% of the cost of public K-12 education.
- Investing in public education is one of the best ways to improve Maine's economy.
- State funding for education may reduce pressure on local property taxes.
- Money is needed to ensure that children receive a public education that prepares them for the future.
- Increased funding should not increase taxes on moderate to low income families.
- People earning above \$200,000 can better afford a tax to support public education.

- Maine already has a high tax burden. We do not need to increase income taxes.
- Education funding should be a local decision made by the towns and cities.
- Taxing high earners sends a signal that Maine does not welcome prosperous citizens, business owners, and job creators.
- High earners may move away if taxes increase. This would decrease state revenue.
- Education does not need more funding.

BALLOT QUESTION 3: Citizen Initiative

An Act to Require Background Checks for Gun Sales

"Do you want to require background checks prior to the sale or transfer of firearms between individuals not licensed as firearms dealers, with failure to do so punishable by law, and with some exceptions for family members, hunting, self-defense, lawful competitions, and shooting range activity?"

What this question means:

Licensed dealers already require background checks. This law would require background checks for private purchases of guns with some exceptions.

Argument for **YES**:

- Under current Maine law, a private seller can sell a gun to a total stranger without having to run a criminal background check on the buyer or keep any records of the sale.
- Background checks work to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.
 Every year, they block hundreds of gun sales to felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people in Maine.
- This initiative would expand the current law so that everyone must conduct background checks when selling guns.
- Background checks are constitutional.

- Criminals will always find a way to get guns.
- This background check requirement will just put a burden on law-abiding citizens and make it more expensive for a private person to sell their gun.
- The U.S. and Maine Constitutions permit gun ownwership.

BALLOT QUESTION 4: Citizen Initiative

An Act to Raise the Minimum Wage

"Do you want to raise the minimum hourly wage of \$7.50 to \$9 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases up to \$12 in 2020, and annual cost-of-living increases thereafter; and do you want to raise the direct wage for service workers who receive tips from half the minimum wage to \$5 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases until it reaches the adjusted minimum wage?"

What this question means:

This law would raise the minimum wage across the state. The minimum hourly wage now is \$7.50. In 2017, the hourly wage would be \$9.00, and would increase by \$1.00 each year until it reaches \$12.00 on January 1, 2020. After 2020, the minimum wage would increase at the rate of inflation.

The minimum wage for employees who earn tips has always been lower than for employees who do not earn tips. This law would increase the minimum wage for employees who earn tips to \$5.00 an hour beginning January 1, 2017. Starting in 2018, the minimum wage for tipped employees would increase by \$1.00 per hour until it is equal to minimum hourly for other employees.

Argument for **YES**:

- It will help minimum wage earners support their families.
- The number of people dependent on state and federal financial aid may decrease.
- It may help bring greater economic stability to many minimum wage earners.
- Minimum wage earners may have more money to spend, which could help Maine's economy.
- Tipped employees may have more steady and dependable income.

- Costs to employers will increase.
- Small employers may go out of business or may move out of Maine.
- Businesses may have to lay off workers due to increased costs.
- Maine may be a less attractive state for companies to do business in.
- It increases the minimum wage too far, too fast.

BALLOT QUESTION 5: Citizen Initiative

An Act To Establish Ranked-Choice Voting

"Do you want to allow voters to rank their choices of candidates in elections for U.S. Senate, Congress, Governor, State Senate, and State Representative, and to have ballots counted at the state level in multiple rounds in which last-place candidates are eliminated until a candidate wins by majority?"

What this question means:

This new law will change the way we vote for Governor, U.S. Senators, U.S. House of Representatives, State Senators, and State Representatives. If the new law is passed, voters will rank candidates in order of preference. Voters may rank as many or as few candidates as they choose. If one candidate is the first choice of the majority of voters, that candidate wins. If not, the candidate with the fewest first choice rankings is eliminated, and the voters who made that candidate their top choice have their votes given to their second choice. This process repeats until a candidate has a majority of the votes.

Argument for **YES**:

- The winner must get a majority of votes cast. Candidates will have to get 50% plus one vote to win.
- Voters may have more meaningful choices.
- Negative campaigning may be reduced.
- It encourages politicians to reach out to voters outside their base support and build coalitions.
- It eliminates vote splitting and the need for strategic voting.

- Maine law currently uses a plurality, which means the candidate with the most votes wins.
- It may be ruled unconstitutional.
- It may be costly for the state to implement.
- Determining the winners of elections may be delayed.
- Voters may require more explanation.
- State officials may require central tabulation.

Bond Question

BALLOT QUESTION 6: Bond Issue

"Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities, equipment and property acquisition related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, to be used to match an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds?"

What this question means:

The State would borrow \$100 million to improve and repair highways, bridges, harbors, ports, railroads, airports, and walking trails. If the bond passes, an additional \$137 million would come from the federal government and other sources.

Argument for **YES**:

- If Maine agrees to borrow the \$100 million, our share will be matched by \$137 million in federal and other funds. Matching funds provide more money to fund projects.
- The bond will provide money to improve highways and bridges as well as facilities to support all existing modes of transportation in Maine.
- It will make our roads and bridges safer.
- Improvements in transportation systems support commerce and tourism for the future.
- Interest rates are at an historic low, which means that borrowing now will cost less than it might in the future.
- Use of the bond funds could result in construction jobs right now.

- Maine would add \$100 million to its debt.
- It will cost a total of \$133 million in principal and interest over ten years to repay the money.
- Other projects may be more worthy of the state's money.

Thank You

Thank You

Published in 2016 by:

League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund

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EASY-TO-READ VOTER GUIDE



League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund

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

League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund PO Box 863 Augusta, ME 04332-0863 Phone: 207-622-0256 Email: Iwvme@gwi.net Website: www.lwvme.org/about_edfund.html

Visit our Facebook page:

www. facebook.com/LWVME

@LWVME

And our Twitter feed:





Join the League of Women Voters of Maine!

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 member, \$82.50 for two members at the same household, or \$100 for mentors who support discounted memberships for others to:

League of Women Voters of Maine PO Box 863 Augusta, ME 04332-0863