



PRESS RELEASE  
05/1/2020

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**Maine Voting & Elections Coalition Files Petition to Governor**  
*Petition Has Collected Over 1,000 Signatures*

[PORTLAND, ME] — On April 6th, the League of Women Voters of Maine [joined 12 other advocacy organizations](#) committed to protecting the safety of voters, poll location workers, and the election process. The organizations forwarded suggestions to state government that called upon changes to the ways in which registration, absentee voting, and in-person voting are conducted.

On April 10, Governor Mills signed an Executive Order to postpone the June primary until July 14th. The LWVME supported this decision and commended the governor's [verbal and online](#) support for preserving in-person voting.

Now, the Maine Voting & Elections Coalition is following up with Gov. Mills and state leadership regarding the July primary by issuing a petition. The petition lays out demands that have not yet been met, which will aid in smoothing out the voting process. The goal is to avoid the [public health crisis](#) that occurred on April 7th during Wisconsin's primary when voters were forced to wait in long lines.

Since releasing the petition to the public on April 28, it has collected over 1,000 signatures. Maine voters have proven that they want the right to vote securely and safely. They agree with the necessary demands provided in the letter to Gov. Mills.

The petition asks that Gov. Mills signs an Executive Order which will promise the following:

- 1) **Providing online options to assist voter registration.** It is vitally important that those eligible to register are able to do so without leaving home. Technical changes should be made so that access to a scanner, printer, and postage is not a barrier to becoming a voter.
- 2) **Mailing absentee ballots to every registered voter.** To maximize the number of participating voters in the July primary, every registered voter should be mailed a ballot in order to be able to safely vote at home.
- 3) **Preserving a safe in-person voting option.** An in-person voting option is vital for ensuring that those who are unable to vote by mail are not disenfranchised and that same-day voter registration can still be offered. With proper planning, it will be possible to offer in-person voting that complies with health and safety guidelines and allows Mainers to safely cast their ballots.



- 4) Including paid postage for all returnable voter mailings.** For this election, eligible voters need to be offered an option to register to vote and cast a ballot without leaving home. Lack of stamps should not prevent this. Committing to providing paid postage will make it easier for voters to truly vote from home.

The organizations supporting this petition are: AARP of Maine, ACLU of Maine, Maine AFL-CIO, League of Women Voters of Maine, Maine Conservation Alliance, Maine Education Association, Maine People's Alliance, Maine Service Employees Association - SEIU Local 1989, Maine Center for Economic Policy, Maine Equal Justice, Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund, NextGen Maine, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

*The League of Women Voters of Maine is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.*

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