

Date Printed: 06/11/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_74
Tab Number: 20
Document Title: Promote the Vote: Maine Voter Guide 1996
Document Date: 1996
Document Country: United States -- Maine
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE02257



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Promote the Vote

Maine Voter Guide

1996



Prepared by
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Secretary of State

June 20, 1996

1. Register

How do I register to vote?

You must be at least 17 years old to complete a voter registration application and at least 18 years old to actually vote. Completing the card now means you won't have to do it later. A sample application is printed here to help you.

Where do I go to register?

You may register to vote at your town office. You may also register to vote through any Motor Vehicle branch office or at your school. Completed voter registration cards may be delivered by hand or mailed to your town office or the Secretary of State.

2. Here's what you do.

All items on the card must be completed or it may be rejected. No witness or notary is required. Some of the more common questions are answered below. (*Note: This is a sample voter registration card. Other versions may look slightly different).

A correct physical address is required and must say where the voter lives, not where mail is received.

Only political parties authorized to enroll voters may be indicated here.

Write your name

Write your mailing address

CHECK ONE				MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION			Registrar's Use ONLY		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Address/Name Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Change		-- PLEASE PRINT --			Ward: _____	Precinct: _____	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME		DATE OF BIRTH			
MAILING ADDRESS		CITY/TOWN		ZIP CODE		Mo. Day Year		TELEPHONE	
STREET OR LOCATION ADDRESS (Number, Street, etc., if different from above)				CITY, TOWN, PLANTATION, OR TOWNSHIP OF RESIDENCE (Where you live)					
CHANGE OF NAME ONLY	PRIOR LEGAL NAME (Last)	(First)	(M.I.)	POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION					
PREVIOUS REGISTRATION ADDRESS (<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if none.)				<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Other Choose only one.				<input type="checkbox"/> I do not wish to enroll in a political party at this time.	
CITY/TOWN		STATE	ZIP CODE						
Under penalty of law, I certify that I am a U.S. citizen and that the above facts are true.									
Signature of Applicant				Date		REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY			
						Changes of Enrollment			
						Party			
						Date			
						to _____			
						to _____			
						to _____			

Applicant must sign and date the application.

Persons who do not wish to enroll in a political party must check this box.

3. Vote

Who can vote?

To vote in Maine, you must be a United States citizen, you must live in this state, be at least 18 years old and registered to vote.

Where do I go to vote?

Every town has its own places where people vote. You should call your town office to find out where you vote.

Except in the smallest Maine towns, voting places are open by 7 or 8 a.m. and close by 8 p.m. on election day. Local officials can give you the times for your community.

Can I vote if I'm sick or out of town?

Yes. You may vote by absentee ballot, if you believe you will not be able to get to the polls on election day for any reason.

You can get an absentee ballot at your town office or, in some cases, through the mail. Call your town clerk for exact instructions.

What if I have questions or don't know how to contact my local officials?

You may call your local town office with questions. You may also call or write to:

Division of Elections
#101 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0101
(207) 287-4186

4. More about voting

When is the next statewide election?

Maine will hold its next statewide election on November 5, 1996. People will be asked to elect a new President, Vice President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representatives and a number of state candidates.

People also will be asked to vote on statewide referendum questions. A booklet further explaining these issues is available from the Division of Elections. The telephone number is (207) 287-4186. You should check with your town office to get information about local elections.

Can I have help voting?

Yes. If you need help reading or marking the ballot, you may ask a friend for assistance. The helper does not have to be a voter or old enough to vote. An election official also can help you if you want.

If you have a job, your boss or employer cannot help you vote. If you belong to a union, a union official cannot help you vote.

How do I mark a ballot?

On each ballot, it tells you how to mark your choices. If you have a question, ask an election official. If you make a mistake, first fold your ballot. Then give it to an election official. The official will give you another ballot.

Welcome

Dear fellow Citizen,

Thank you for your interest in voting. This guide explains how to register and vote in our state. If you vote, you will help keep Maine's democracy strong.

As a Maine voter, you will become part of an important democratic tradition called public participation. For example, Maine led the nation for voter turnout in the 1992 presidential election. More than 73 percent of Maine's eligible residents voted.

The **Promote the Vote** campaign, now under way, is aimed at keeping public participation strong. If you would like to help **Promote the Vote** or want more information, you may call my office at (207) 626-8406.

For our democracy to work, we must all take part in the process and vote. I am asking you to do your part. Please register and vote. After that, make sure your family and friends vote, too!

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

Bill Diamond
Secretary of State