Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Am I registered to vote?
2. Where do I vote?
3. When do the polls open/close?
4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?
5. Can I vote without providing identification?
6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration. Can I vote?
7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?
8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?
9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?
10. I Have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?
11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?
12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?
13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?
14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?
15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?
16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before election day?
17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on election day?
18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?
19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?
20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?
21. Can I vote in the primary election?

1. Am I registered to vote?

To find out if a voter is registered to vote, the voter should contact his or her local municipal election official. For a listing of municipal election officials see the Maine Secretary of State’s website, “Municipal Clerks & Registrars” page (http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.html).

2. Where do I vote?

You can determine a voter’s proper polling place by checking the “Maine Voter Information Lookup Service” web page (http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated his or her voter registration, refer to Question #6.

3. When do the polls open and close?

For municipalities with a population of more than 500, the polls must open between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00
a.m. For municipalities with a population of less than 500, the polls must open between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. All polling places close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, except in municipalities with a population of less than 100 which may choose to close the polls after all registered voters have voted. The election official must give the voters present at the voting place at closing time the opportunity to vote. The voters who arrive at the voting place after closing time may not vote. The municipal clerk shall state the times of opening and closing of the polls in the notice of the election. To find out when your polling place opens, contact your municipal clerk.

If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place is not open at 8:00 a.m. (or 10:00 a.m. in a municipality with population less than 500), advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center. If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place closes before 8:00 p.m. or is not letting voters who were in line at 8:00 p.m. vote, advise voters to stay in line and contact your hotline captain/command center.

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

The deadline for receipt of a voter registration application submitted by mail or by a third person (e.g. applications made at a registration drive) is close of business on the 21st day before the election the voter intends to vote in. The deadline is February 11, 2010 for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary, June 12, 2020 for the July 14, 2020 Primary Election, and October 16, 2020 for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

There is no deadline to register to vote in person at your town office. Voters may register on election day at their polling place. Voters who wish to register in person on election day will need to write down their Maine driver's license/Maine State ID number or the last four digits of their social security number (if they don't have a Maine driver's license/Maine State ID) in their application. In addition, voters will need to prove their identity and residency by showing one of the following documents including their current name and street address: valid Maine driver's license; valid Maine State ID; a current utility bill; a bank statement; a paycheck; or another government document showing their current name and street address.

If a voter cannot prove identity and residency, their name will still be included in the list of registered voters, but the voter will only be permitted to cast a provisional (challenged) ballot. Challenged ballots are counted along with regular ballots. If the number of challenged ballots could affect the outcome of the vote (exceeding in number the difference between winning and losing candidates), then they are reviewed by the Maine election authorities. If the voter must take further action to verify his or her identity or residency, the voter will be contacted by the election authorities before a decision is made whether to count or not to count the challenged ballot.

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

Yes. If a voter has registered to vote in advance in Maine, the voter does not need to show identification to get a ballot.

If a voter did not register to vote in advance, the voter will need to register before voting. Please refer to Question #4.

6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration. Can I vote?
If a voter has moved within the same municipality, the voter should notify the registrar to change the address on the voter registration list and in the central voter registration system. If a voter has moved to a different municipality, the voter should re-register with the registrar of his or her new municipality.

If the voter fails to notify the registrar before election day, the answer to this question depends on where the voter moved. Refer to the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved within the same district</th>
<th>Moved to a different district but within the same municipality</th>
<th>Moved to a different municipality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The voter should go to the appropriate polling place associated with his or her new address. To determine the relevant polling place, see the “Maine Voter Information Lookup Service” web page (<a href="http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php">http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php</a>). If the voter registration list still lists the voter’s old address, the voter will need to ask the municipal registrar to change the address on the voter registration list and in the central voter registration system on Election Day.</td>
<td>The voter should go to the appropriate polling place associated with his or her new address. To determine the relevant polling place, see the “Maine Voter Information Lookup Service” web page (<a href="http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php">http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php</a>). If the voter registration list still lists the voter’s old address, the voter will need to ask the municipal registrar to change the address on the voter registration list and in the central voter registration system on Election Day.</td>
<td>The voter will need to re-register to vote in person with the registrar of his or her new municipality on Election Day by showing proof of identity and residency.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. In addition, voters can use an official paper ballot, and should request one if it is not offered.

If you are a hotline volunteer and learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain, who will notify a voting machine expert or speak with election officials.

If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and the equipment is not working properly, notify the command center, which will notify a voting machine expert.

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the precinct where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?

A voter must vote in the district associated with their address. If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer, you should tell the voter to go to their assigned polling place if at all possible.
If the voter has moved and is at the correct precinct for their new address, but is not listed on the rolls, refer to Question #6. The registrar must correct any error in the incoming voting list or central voter registration system that might otherwise deprive a voter of the voter's right to vote.10

9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters - could it have been removed?

If a voter is at the correct polling place, the voter should ask the election official to call the registrar or clerk and confirm their registration. A voter may not vote if his or her name does not appear correctly on the voter registration list.11 In order to vote, a voter should request the registrar to correct the mistake by bringing proof of identification and residence.12 See Question #4. If the registrar concludes that the voter is eligible to vote, they will issue a certificate allowing the voter to vote.13 If the voter cannot prove his or her identity and residency, the voter must be given a provisional (challenged) ballot to cast their vote.14

A voter’s name will be removed from the central voter registration system by either the registrar for the voter’s municipality or by the Secretary of State: (A) when it is determined that the voter has registered to vote in another jurisdiction in Maine, or (B) when it is determined that the voter has registered in another jurisdiction outside of Maine.15 Further, a voter who has been designated as inactive and fails to vote for the next 2 general elections will be removed from the central voter registration system.16 A voter is entitled to appeal a decision to remove his or her name from the central voter registration system.17

Any voter whose name was removed from the voter registration list on the basis of a determination of ineligibility who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must re-register in order to have his or her name restored to the statewide voter registration system. See Question #4.

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter’s name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

• Make sure the voter is registered to vote and at the right place. (See Question #1 and Question #2.)
• Has the voter moved recently? Could the voter be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See Question #1 and Question #6.)
• Has the voter changed his or her name recently, or could the voter be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variation of the voter’s name, specially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (See Question #1.)
• When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Yes. A criminal conviction does not affect your eligibility to vote in the state of Maine.18

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional (challenged) ballot. Was it for one of the following reasons:

• You are not enrolled in the proper party, if you are voting in a primary election;
• You are not qualified to be a registered voter because:
  o You do not meet the age requirements;
  o You are not a citizen of the United States; or
- You are not a resident of the municipality or appropriate electoral district of the municipality;
  - You registered to vote in person at your town office or on election day and did not provide satisfactory proof of identity and residency;
  - You did not properly apply for an absentee ballot;
  - You did not properly complete the affidavit on the absentee return envelope;
  - You did not cast the ballot or complete the affidavit before the appropriate witness;
  - You engaged in a prohibited communication while marking your ballot;
  - You did not return your ballot to the clerk within the prescribed time;
  - You voted using the name of another;
  - You voted using the wrong ballot for the electoral district or political party, if applicable; or
  - You violated a provision of applicable Maine election law?  

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional (challenged) ballot should be a last resort. Challenged ballots are counted along with regular ballots. If the number of challenged ballots could affect the outcome of the vote (exceeding in number the difference between winning and losing candidates), then they are reviewed by the Maine election authorities. If the voter must take further action to verify his or her identity or residency, the voter will be contacted by the election authorities before a decision is made whether to count or not to count the challenged ballot.

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

Yes. If you attend college in Maine, you may vote in your school’s municipality if you have a present intention to remain at your Maine school address (e.g., dorm, apartment, house) for the time being. In determining a voter’s residence, the registrar may consider several factors, including a direct statement of intention by the voter; the location of any dwelling currently occupied by the voter; the voter’s mailing address; the address at which a motor vehicle owned by the voter is registered; the receipt of public benefits conditioned upon residency; and other factors.

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes. All polling places in Maine should be accessible to people with disabilities. Maine law requires that each polling place be accessible to physically disabled voters, that at least one voting booth in each voting place be accessible for people with disabilities, and that at least one of the voting booths at each voting place be equipped with an enlarged instruction poster, a magnifying device, and an adjustable lamp for improved lighting. An enlarged sample ballot may also be available upon request. In the event that a polling place is not accessible to you, please contact the municipality election office.

14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have some person of his or her choice, other than the voter’s employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter’s union, mark the voter’s choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot. A voter may also request an election official to assist.

Additionally, Maine law requires that that at least one voting booth in each voting place be accessible for people with disabilities. Voters should have the right to use Maine’s Accessible Voting System at every voting place. See the Maine Secretary of State’s website, “Accessible Voting” page (http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/accessiblevoting.html)
15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have some person of his or her choice, other than the voter’s employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter’s union, mark the voter’s choices or assist the voter in marking his or her choices on the ballot. A voter may also request an election official to assist.25

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before election day?

Any registered voter can vote by absentee ballot. A voter does not need to have a specific reason for requesting his or her absentee ballot.26 Absentee ballots request may be requested from 3 months before the Election Day until the 3rd business day before election day (unless special circumstances exist).27 Voters should make their request early to allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed to them. Absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk’s office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.28

A voter may vote absentee at his or her town clerk's office as soon as absentee ballots are available, and up until Election Day. Absentee ballots are available at least 30 days before election day. A voter who has not previously registered, will need to register before casting an in-person absentee ballot. A voter can register in person at their town clerk’s office at any time, including the same day that they are casting the in-person absentee ballot. For more information on absentee voting, please visit the Maine Secretary of State’s “Absentee Voting Guide” web page (http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html).

17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on election day?

As long as you are registered, even if you requested or returned an absentee ballot, you should be allowed to vote in person by regular ballot. Any returned absentee ballot will not be counted if you have voted in person.29

18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?

Yes. Maine has same-day registration. Voters who wish to register in person on Election Day will need to write down their Maine driver's license number, Maine State ID number or the last four digits of their social security number (if they don’t have a Maine driver's license or Maine State ID) in their applications. In addition, voters will need to prove their identity and residency by showing one of the following documents including their current name and street address: valid Maine driver’s license; valid Maine State ID; a current utility bill; a bank statement; a paycheck; or another government document showing their current name and street address.30

If a voter cannot prove identity and residency, their names will still be included in the list of registered voters, but they will only be permitted to cast a provisional (challenged) ballot. The voter may need to provide additional identification or evidence of their eligibility to vote before his or her provisional (challenged) ballot is counted—see Question #11.31

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

No. A person may not influence or attempt to influence your decision regarding a candidate within 250 feet of the polling place. In addition, a person may not display or distribute campaigning or advertising
materials, such as literature, posters, palm cards, buttons, badges or stickers, containing a candidate’s name or otherwise with the intent to influence a voter’s decision within 250 feet of the polling place.32

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

Only a voter of a municipality or an election official can challenge a voter’s right to vote, and must do so through a signed affidavit under oath administered by the warden citing the specific source of the information or personal knowledge upon which the challenge of the particular individual is based.

If a person challenges a voter’s right to vote, the challenged voter may proceed to vote using a marked official paper ballot (not the voting machine). After the election at which the voter has been challenged, the registrar shall hold a hearing to confirm the qualifications of the challenged voter. The qualifications of the voter must be resolved within a reasonable time after the election, and the voter’s name will either be retained or cancelled from the central voter registration system depending on the outcome of the hearing.33

21. Can I vote in the primary election?

The presidential primary in Maine is “closed,” meaning that voters must be registered members of the party holding the primary. Newly registered Maine voters, or registered voters who are not enrolled in any party, may enroll in the Republican or Democratic Party at any time, including the day of the primary or caucus, and be eligible to participate in that caucus or primary.34 When a voter changes residence from one municipality to another and establishes a new voting residence in that municipality, that voter may enroll in any party on the day of the caucus, primary or convention, and vote at that party’s caucus, primary or convention, regardless of that voter’s prior enrollment.35 The deadline for registered municipal voters wishing to change their party affiliation and participate in party primaries is June 30, 2020 for the state primaries on July 14, 2020.36 Voters under the age of 18 may vote in a political party’s primary election or municipal caucus if that person is at least 18 years of age at the time of the next general election.37 The Republican and Democratic parties in Maine will be conducting closed primaries to select presidential electors on March 3, 2020.
1 Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 21-A § 626(1).
8 Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 129(3); 661.
9 Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 129(3); 661.
34 Me. Rev. Stat. tit 21-A § 111(5)
35 Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 21-A § 144(4)
36 Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 21-A § 144(3)
37 Me. Rev. Stat. tit 21-A § 111(2)