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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

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)
2. **HOW:** [How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?](#)
3. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)
4. **DEADLINES:** [When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?](#)
5. **SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)
6. **PERMANENT MOVE:** [I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)
7. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily due to COVID-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?](#)
8. **STUDENT:** [I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?](#)
9. **LIVING ABROAD:** [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)
10. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** [I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?](#)
11. **INCARCERATED:** [I am currently in jail. Can I vote?](#)
12. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** [I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?](#)
13. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** [My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What do I do?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

14. **AVAILABILITY:** [Is there early voting in my state \(whether called early voting or in person absentee voting\)? When is it?](#)
15. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a reason to vote early?](#)
16. **WHEN:** [When do the polls open/close during early voting?](#)
17. **WHERE:** [Where do I vote during early voting?](#)
18. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE and/or VOTE BY MAIL

19. **AUTOMATIC:** [Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically?](#)
20. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** [What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?](#)
21. **APPLICATION RETURN:** [Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?](#)

22. **APPLICATION - DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME:** [What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?](#)
23. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote absentee whether in person or by mail-in or drop off ballot?](#)
24. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** [How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?](#)
25. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** [I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?](#)
26. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** [How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?](#)
27. **LOST OR SPOILED:** [What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?](#)
28. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** [What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?](#)
29. **IN PERSON OPTION:** [What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?](#)
30. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** [What is the deadline for the **ballot** to be mailed and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?](#)
31. **BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS:** [What are the locations for dropping off a ballot \(instead of mailing it\)?](#)
32. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** [Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?](#)
33. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** [Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?](#)

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. **HOURS:** [When do the polls open/close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?](#)
35. **POLLING LOCATION:** [Where do I vote on Election Day?](#)
36. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What identification is required to vote? Can I vote without providing identification?](#)

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

37. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** [The polling place is not open. What do I do?](#)
38. **LONG LINES:** [There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?](#)
39. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** [What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?](#)
40. **NO PPE/COVID:** [What if my polling is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?](#)
41. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** [I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?](#)
42. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** [I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?](#)
43. **READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE:** [I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?](#)
44. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** [When can I request curbside voting?](#)
45. **CAMPAIGNING:** [What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?](#)
46. **CHALLENGE:** [Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?](#)
47. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** [There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?](#)
48. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** [I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?](#)

QUESTIONS

49. [Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?](#)

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. STATUS: 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. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don’t have access to a computer and/or printer?

Maine voters can register to vote by filling out a voter registration card at the voter’s town office or city hall, through any Motor Vehicle branch office, in most state & federal social service agencies, or at voter registration drives. Maine voters may also download and print a voter registration application, located at the following links:

- A Fillable PDF is available at the following link:

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/pdf/voterregcard20.pdf>

- A Microsoft Word version is available by clicking here: [Word](#)

Additional instructions for completing the Maine Voter Registration Application are available in Microsoft Word at the following link: [Instructions for completing the Maine Voter Registration Application](#)

If the voter does not have access to a computer or printer, the voter should contact their town clerk to have a voter registration card mailed to you. A printed version of the voter registration card, with the voter’s original signature, must be kept on file by the town clerk, so the card cannot be transmitted electronically. Completed voter registration cards may be hand delivered or mailed to the town office or city hall; such information is available at the following website. (<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.html>).ⁱ

Maine also has “same day” voter registration. For additional information, see Question #5.

3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

When a voter registers to vote, the voter must provide his or her driver’s license number, state ID number, or the last four digits of the voter’s Social Security number.ⁱⁱ New voters who register by mail must provide a copy of certain identity documents with the completed registration form. The mail-in registrant may submit a copy of a Maine Driver’s License or other valid photo ID, a current utility bill, a bank statement, a paycheck stub or other government document that shows the voter’s current name and address. Newly registered voters who have not previously delivered a copy of the required identification must bring it to vote.ⁱⁱⁱ

4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?

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. However, on August 27, 2020, Governor Janet Mills signed an executive order extending the mail-in voter registration deadline to October 19, 2020.^{iv}

There is no deadline to register to vote in person at your town office. Voters may register on election day at their polling place (see also Question 5).^v 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.^{vi}

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.^{vii} 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.^{viii}

5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?

Yes. Voters may register on election day at their polling place.^{ix} 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.^x

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.^{xi} 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.^{xii}

6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently 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.

Moved within the same district	Moved to a different district but within the same municipality	Moved to a different municipality
<p>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 (http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php).</p> <p>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.^{xiii}</p>	<p>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 (http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php).</p> <p>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.^{xiv}</p>	<p>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.</p>

7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?

Maine requires that the voter must have established and maintain a voting residence in the municipality in which the voter is registered.^{xv} So long as that voting residence is maintained, the voter should request an absentee ballot.

8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

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.^{xvi}

A person does not gain or lose a residence solely because of that person’s presence or absence while employed in the uniformed service or the merchant marine of the United States, while a student in any institution of learning, while kept in any institution at public expense or while residing upon any Indian or military reservations. This subsection may not be construed to prevent a student at any institution of learning from qualifying as a voter in the municipality where the student resides while attending that institution.^{xvii} The voter should vote at his or her polling place, request an absentee ballot, or vote in-person absentee.

9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

Voters living abroad or serving in the military should visit the following website to request an absentee ballot if the voter is already registered:

https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/ballot_begin.pl.

If the voter needs to register to vote, the voter may complete the Federal Post Card application, which also serves as the absentee ballot application, at the following link:

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/fedpostcardapp.pdf>.^{xviii}

10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Yes. A criminal conviction does not affect your eligibility to vote in the state of Maine.^{xix}

11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?

Yes. If you are incarcerated in a correctional facility or in a county jail, you are entitled to register to vote in the Maine municipality where you previously established residency (a fixed and principal home to which you intend to return) prior to incarceration.^{xx}

12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

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. Please also see [Question #13](#).

If the voter has not been registered, Maine has same-day voting registration. Please refer to [Question #5](#) for additional information.

13. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?

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.^{xxi} In order to vote, a voter should request the registrar to correct the mistake by bringing proof of identification and residence.^{xxii} See [Question #4](#). If the registrar concludes that the voter is eligible to vote, they will issue a certificate allowing the voter to vote.^{xxiii} If the voter cannot prove his or her identity and residency, the voter must be given a provisional (challenged) ballot to cast their vote.^{xxiv}

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.^{xxv} 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.^{xxvi} A voter is entitled to appeal a decision to remove his or her name from the central voter registration system.^{xxvii}

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

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, especially 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?

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)? When is it?

Any registered voter can vote by absentee ballot, or in person by absentee ballot. A voter does not need to have a specific reason for requesting his or her absentee ballot.^{xxviii} **Absentee ballots may be requested from 3 months before the Election Day until the 3rd business day before election day** (unless special circumstances exist).^{xxix} 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.**^{xxx}

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. (See also [Question #16](#)). 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>).

15. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

No, a voter does not need to have a specific reason to vote early by absentee ballot.^{xxxi}

16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?

A voter may vote before Election Day only through absentee in-person voting at the town clerk’s office. The period for absentee in-person voting runs from Monday, October 5, 2020 to Friday, October 30, 2020, but dates and hours will vary based on which town the voter resides. 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. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

A voter may vote before Election Day only through absentee in-person voting at the town clerk’s office. The period for absentee in-person voting runs from Monday, October 5, 2020 to Friday, October, 30, 2020, but dates and hours will vary based on which town the voter resides. You do not need to complete an application if you vote in person at the Clerk’s office. 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>).

18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? 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.^{xxxii} If a voter did not register to vote in advance, the voter will need to register before voting. Please refer to [Question #2](#), [Question #3](#) and [Question #4](#).

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

19. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?

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.^{xxxiii} Maine does not mail absentee ballots automatically. There are numerous ways to request an absentee ballot:

First, the voter may contact the municipal clerk in the town or city where you are registered to vote, in person or by phone. Voters may use the following link to locate his or her municipal clerk: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.html>

Second, voters can request their own ballot electronically using the Secretary of State’s online absentee ballot request service. The approved online form can be found at the following web site: https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/ballot_begin.pl. Uniformed or Overseas Voters may request an absentee ballot from the same website.

Finally, the voter may make a written request by completing an absentee ballot application. Additionally, a voter can obtain a ballot for an immediate family member in this same way. A ballot will be mailed to the voter directly or to an immediate family member making the request. CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

NOTE: Ballots obtained by the voter or an immediate family member do not require witnesses, unless the voter receives assistance from another person in reading or marking the ballot.

Applications are available starting 3 months before the election from the municipal clerk or online at: [http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/Absentee Ballot/index.pl](http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/Absentee%20Ballot/index.pl)

20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

Absentee ballots may be requested from 3 months before the Election Day until the 3rd business day before election day (unless special circumstances exist).^{xxxiv} 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.**^{xxxv}

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 (see also [Question #22](#) for additional information). 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>).

21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

Absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.^{xxxvi} 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 to vote will need to register before casting an in-person absentee ballot.

22. DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?

For the November 3, 2020 General Election, the deadline to request an absentee ballot by telephone or online Absentee Ballot Request service is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2020. If the voter did not meet the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot, a voter may vote in the presence of the clerk during the clerk's office hours, until 5:00 p.m. on Friday October 30, 2020, or a voter may vote in person on Election Day.^{xxxvii}

23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?

No, a voter does not need to have a specific reason for requesting his or her absentee ballot.^{xxxviii}

24. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?

Uniformed Service & Overseas Voters may check their absentee ballot status online if they have originally requested the ballot through the online absentee ballot request service, available at the following link: <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/ballot-status.pl>. All other voters must contact their municipal clerk / election official in order to check on the status of their absentee ballot. 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>).

25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

The voter should contact their local clerk / 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>).

26. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?

Voters should fill out the absentee ballot and return it to the municipal clerk as instructed.^{xxxix} There are no identification requirements, so long as the voter has previously registered by providing a copy of identification previously. See also [Questions #3](#) and [#36](#).

27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

As long as the voter is registered, even if the voter requested or returned an absentee ballot, the voter should be allowed to vote in person by regular ballot. Any returned absentee ballot will not be counted if the voter has voted in person.^{xl} It is recommended that the voter bring the spoiled or incorrect ballot, if the voter still has it. The voter may also contact his or her municipal clerk for additional information. 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>).

Further, if a voter spoils a ballot, the voter may obtain a replacement, not more than twice, by returning the spoiled ballot to the election clerk in charge of issuing ballots. The warden, ward clerk or deputy warden shall write "Spoiled by voter" on the spoiled ballot and sign it. If a replacement ballot is issued to the voter, the warden, ward clerk or deputy warden shall also mark "Replacement ballot issued" on the spoiled ballot. The election official shall then segregate the spoiled ballot with any other spoiled ballots in an envelope labeled "Spoiled ballots" and shall package and return the envelope of segregated ballots in accordance with the law. The Secretary of State will provide the clerk of each municipality with either a label and instructions on proper handling of spoiled ballots or a special envelope printed with this label and instructions.^{xli}

28. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

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>).

29. IN PERSON OPTION: 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.^{xlii} It is recommended that the voter bring the requested absentee ballot with them to their polling place, if the voter still has it.

30. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

Absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.^{xliii} The postmark date is not relevant.

31. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed ballot (instead of mailing it)?

The voter may drop off the absentee ballot at the office of its municipal clerk. 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>).

32. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?

Voters may make a written request for a "third person" (someone other than the voter or the voter's immediate family member) to obtain and hand-deliver an absentee ballot. Voters must designate, in a written request or application, the specific third person who will handle and deliver the ballot. Only this designated third person may handle the absentee ballot. Ballots cast in this way must be witnessed by either a notary public, a municipal clerk, a clerk of courts, or 2 other witnesses.^{xliv}

33. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?

At the office of the municipal clerk. The voter may drop off the absentee ballot at the office of its municipal clerk. 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>).^{xlv}

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?

For municipalities with a population of 500 or more, 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. The municipal officers of each municipality shall determine the time of opening the polls within these limits.^{xlvi} CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

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.^{xlvi} 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.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line by the time the polls closed from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

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 their voter registration, refer to [Questions #6](#) and [7](#).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, many polling places have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from the local election authority a few days before the election.

36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? 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.^{xlvi} If a voter did not register to vote in advance, the voter will need to register before voting. Please refer to [Question #3](#).

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

37. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?

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.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

38. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

See [Question #34](#) for answer if voter is in line when polls are closing. Voters should not leave and will be able to vote so long as they are in line when polls close.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of long lines, notify your hotline captain immediately.

39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: 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.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?

As of September 18, 2020, Maine has not yet issued its Covid-19 guidance for the November general election. However, for the most recent primary election that took place on July 14, 2020, the State supplied PPE, including face coverings and gloves, antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer. Election officials were required to wear a cloth face covering and/or face shield. Voters were strongly encouraged to wear face coverings also but could not be turned away from voting for not doing so. Undoubtedly, the layout of polling places will look different to voters due to social distancing measures.^{xlix}

41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: 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.^l

42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability 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.^{li} In the event that a polling place is not accessible to you, please contact the municipality election office.

43. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, have a physical disability, 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.^{lii}

Additionally, Maine law requires that at least one voting booth in each voting place be accessible for people with disabilities.^{liii} 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>)

44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?

We recommend that the voter contact their municipal clerk; there is no express right to curbside voting, but the voter may drop off their absentee ballot with the municipal clerk or in-person absentee vote. 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>).

45. CAMPAIGNING: 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 with 250 feet of the polling place.^{liv}

46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my 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.^{lv}

47. POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE: There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?

If there are police / members of the military at the polling place, the voter should notify the election official immediately, and the voter should still cast their ballot. Election officials are well-trained and there to help. Additionally, persons may not influence or attempt to influence your decision regarding a candidate within 250 feet of the polling place.^{lvi}

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: 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:
 - You do not meet the age requirements;
 - 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?^{lvii}

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.^{lviii}

QUESTIONS

49. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

If the voter has any additional questions, the voter should visit the website of the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions, on elections, at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/>. Voters may also contact his or her local election officials. 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>).

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- i Me. Sec’y of State, *State of Maine Voter Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html>.
 - ii Me. Sec’y of State, *Maine Voter Guide Part 1: Registering to Vote*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/videotranscript.html>.
 - iii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 112-A; Me. Sec’y of State, *State of Maine Voter Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html>; [Instructions for completing the Maine Voter Registration Application](#).
 - iv Me. Exec. Order No. 8 FY 20/21 (Aug. 26, 2020), <https://www.maine.gov/sos/news/2020/EO-8FY20-21.pdf>.
 - v Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 121-A.
 - vi Me. Sec’y of State, *State of Maine Voter Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html>.
 - vii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 121(1-A).
 - viii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 696; Me. Sec’y of State, *Voter Information*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/index.html>.
 - ix Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 121-A.
 - x Me. Sec’y of State, *State of Maine Voter Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html>; Me. Sec’y of State, *Maine Voter Guide Part 1: Registering to Vote*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/videotranscript.html#part1>.
 - xi Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 121(1-A).
 - xii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 696(1); Me. Sec’y of State, *Voter Information*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/index.html>.
 - xiii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 129(3); 661.
 - xiv Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 129(3); 661.
 - xv Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 111, 112(3).
 - xvi Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 112(1).
 - xvii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 112(7).
 - xviii Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Ballot Request*, <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>.
 - xix Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 111.
 - xx Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 112(14); Me. Sec’y of State, *Maine Voting Residence Fact Sheet*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/resident.html>.
 - xxi Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 115(3).
 - xxii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 661.
 - xxiii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 661(1).
 - xxiv Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 121(1-A).
 - xxv Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §161(2-A).
 - xxvi Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §162-A(2).
 - xxvii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 163.
 - xxviii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 751.
 - xxix Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 753-A(1), 753-B(2).
 - xxx Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 755; Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Voting in Maine*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html>.
 - xxxi Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 751.
 - xxxii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 671(1); Me. Sec’y of State, *Your Right to Vote in Maine*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/right.html>.
 - xxxiii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 751.
 - xxxiv Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 753-A(1), 753-B(2).
 - xxxv Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 755; Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Voting in Maine*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html>.
 - xxxvi Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 755; Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Voting in Maine*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html>.
 - xxxvii Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.
 - xxxviii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 751.

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- xxxix Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>; Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Voting in Maine*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/AbsenteeAnimationNOV320.Updated092120.pdf>.
- xl Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 759(3)(D).
- xli Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 693.
- xlii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 759(3)(D).
- xliii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 755; Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Voting in Maine*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html>.
- xliv Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.
- xlv Me. Sec’y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.
- xlvi Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 626(1).
- xlvii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 626(2)-(3).
- xlviii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 671(1), Me. Sec’y of State, *Your Right to Vote in Maine*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/right.html>.
- xliv Me. Sec’y of State, *How Will Pandemic Prevention Measures Affect My In-Person Voting Experience?*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/pandemicvoting.html>.
- l Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 672(1).
- li Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 629(1)(A-1), (4).
- lii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 672.
- liii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 629(1)(A-1), (4).
- liv Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 682(2), (3).
- lv Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 673(1), (4), (7), 824.
- lvi Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 682(2).
- lvii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 673(1)(A).
- lviii Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 696; Me. Sec’y of State, *Voter Information*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/index.html>.