

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Maine – General Election 2024

*Last Updated: 8/12/2024*

**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.

**REGISTERING TO VOTE**

**ELECTION DAY**

**EARLY VOTE**

**VOTE BY MAIL**

**ABSENTEE**

**POLLING PLACE ISSUES**

**ACCESSIBILITY /ASSISTANCE**

**STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT**

## Table of Contents

### REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?
2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?
3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?
4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?
5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?
6. **DEADLINES:** When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, or online?
7. **SAME DAY:** Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?
8. **PERMANENT MOVE:** I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?
9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?
10. **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?

11. **LIVING ABROAD:** I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?
12. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?
13. **INCARCERATED:** I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?
14. **REGISTRATION CHALLENGED:** My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?
16. **POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?
17. **TIME OFF WORK:** Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?
18. **CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line?
19. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?
20. **NO IDENTIFICATION:** Can I vote without providing identification?
21. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?
22. **GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?
23. **REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?
24. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS:** I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

## HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING (In this state, defined as: In-Person Absentee)

25. **AVAILABILITY:** Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or something else)?
26. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need to have a reason to vote early?
27. **WHEN:** When does early voting begin/end?
28. **WHERE:** Where do I vote during early voting?
29. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?
30. **ASSISTANCE:** What if I need assistance voting early in person?

## HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL (In this state, defined as: Absentee Voting)

31. **AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?
32. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?
33. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?
34. **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** Can someone assist me with filling out the application?
35. **APPLICATION RETURN:** How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?
36. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?
37. **RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT:** Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?
38. **MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?
39. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or ballot?
40. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?
41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?
42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

- 43. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?
- 44. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
- 45. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
- 46. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?
- 47. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?
- 48. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

## HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE (In this state, defined as: Absentee Voting)

- 49. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?
- 50. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?
- 51. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?
- 52. **EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?
- 53. **APPLICATION RETURN:** Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?
- 54. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?
- 55. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my absentee ballot application or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?
- 56. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the absentee ballot?
- 57. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?
- 58. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?
- 59. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
- 60. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
- 61. **LOST OR SPOILED:** What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?
- 62. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it?
- 63. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?
- 64. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

- 65. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should I do?
- 66. **LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?
- 67. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?
- 68. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?
- 69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?
- 70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?
- 71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

- 72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?
- 73. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?
- 74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?
- 75. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do? (Also see info in the [Election Day Voting](#) section above).

## ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

- 76. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?
- 77. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?
- 78. **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?
- 79. **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?
- 80. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?
- 81. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

## STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

- 82. **RIGHT TO DUPLICATE BALLOT AT THE POLLS:** What happens if I make a mistake on my ballot on election day?
- 83. **ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** How do I obtain an absentee ballot if I am living in a confidential residence for victims of domestic violence?
- 84. **REGISTERING AND VOTING IN PERSON WITH CONFIDENTIAL ADDRESS:** Can I keep my address confidential when registering to vote or voting on election day?
- 85. **GUNS:** Are guns permitted in polling places?
- 86. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

# REGISTERING TO VOTE

## 1. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Can I register to vote?](#)

To be eligible for registering to vote, the person must be a United States citizen, at least 16 years of age, and have established a fixed and principal home in Maine.<sup>1</sup>

To vote in a general election or referendum, voters must be registered to vote in the community where they reside and be at least 18 years of age. A 17-year-old may vote in a primary election if that person

---

<sup>1</sup> Me. Sec'y of State, *State of Maine Voter Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html>.

will be 18 by the general election; provided that such person meets all other qualifications to vote in the primary election.<sup>2</sup>

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** [Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?](#)

A 17 year-old may have voted in the primary election if that person will be 18 by the date of the general election; provided that such person meets all other qualifications to vote in the primary election.<sup>3</sup>

A voter who is enrolled in a political party may change to a different party but must do so at least 15 days before the primary or party caucus to be eligible to vote or participate, unless the voter withdraws from enrollment at the same time that the voter changes the voter's voting residence. Once enrolled in a party, a voter must stay in that party for at least three months.<sup>4</sup>

Voters who are not enrolled/registered with a political party may cast a ballot in one party's primary each election without having to enroll in the political party.<sup>5</sup>

Poll workers are permitted to ask about party enrollment for purposes of voting in that party's primary and to state aloud the party ballot to be given to the voter.<sup>6</sup>

3. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)

To find out if a voter is registered to vote, the voter should contact their [local municipal election official](#) listed on the Maine Secretary of State's website.

4. **HOW:** [How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?](#)

First-time voters or registered voters who need to update their registration may do so online through the [online registration portal](#). The deadline for online registration for the November 5, 2024 general election is twenty-one (21) days before the general election, (i.e., October 15, 2024).

Maine voters also can register to vote in person 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 and federal social service agencies, or at voter registration drives. Instructions for completing the voter registration application are [here](#). The registration deadline for registering at a Motor Vehicle branch office, is one week before the election or October 29, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election. Other state agencies that accept voter registration may have an earlier deadline, and voters should check in advance.

Maine voters may also download and print a [voter registration application](#).

Completed voter registration cards may be hand delivered or [mailed to their town office or city hall](#).<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 111-A.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 111-A.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*, Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 144.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*, Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 145; 341; 671(2).

<sup>6</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 671(2).

<sup>7</sup> Me. Sec'y of State, *State of Maine Voter Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html>.

Mailed registration cards must be received no later than 21 days before Election Day (i.e. October 15, 2024) for the November 5, 2024 general election.

No, voters do not need access to a printer to register to vote. 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 them. 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.

Voters who plan to use the U.S. mail to receive or return their registration application please note the following U.S. Postal Service advisories for mail delivery:

- Registration application should be requested no later than 15 days prior to deadline or October 1, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 election
- Registration application should be returned by mail no later than 7 days prior to deadline or October 8, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 election

Maine also has "same day" voter registration. For additional information about registering to vote on Election Day, See [Question #7](#)

#### 5. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)

For purposes of registering to vote, voters must provide one of the following documents as proof of identification:

- Government-issued document or credential with photo (i.e. current and valid driver's license, State ID, U.S. Passport, military ID, ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe)
- Government-issued ID document/credential without photo (i.e. certified birth certificate or signed Social Security card)
- An official document that shows name and address of voter (i.e. eligibility for public benefits, utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck)
- Student photo ID from a state-approved public or private school or institute of higher education in Maine
- Verified unique identifier (Maine driver's license number or last four numbers of Social Security Number)<sup>8</sup>

#### 6. **DEADLINES:** [When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?](#)

Voters may register in person with their town clerk anytime up to and including Election Day.

The deadline for [online registration](#) for the November 5, 2024 general election is midnight on the 21<sup>st</sup> day before Election Day or October 15, 2024.<sup>9</sup>

The registration deadline for registering at a Motor Vehicle branch office, or other state agency is one week before the election or October 29, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election.

---

<sup>8</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 112-A.

<sup>9</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 121-A.

Voter registration applications submitted by mail, through a voter registration drive, or by a third person must be received by the municipal office no later than the 21st day before the election or October 15, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election.<sup>10</sup>

Voters may register at the polls on Election Day. See [Question #7](#).

**7. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?**

Yes. Voters may register to vote on Election Day at their polling place.<sup>11</sup> Voters who wish to register in person on Election Day will need to provide 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) on their application. In addition, voters will need to prove their identity and residency by showing proof of identification. See [Question #5](#) for acceptable types of identification.

If a voter cannot prove identity and residency, their name will still be included in the list of registered voters, but the voter will cast a challenged ballot.<sup>12</sup> Challenged ballots are counted along with regular ballots.<sup>13</sup> See [Question #24](#)

**8. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?**

Yes. 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 their new municipality.

If the voter fails to notify the registrar before Election Day, the procedure 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 their new address. To determine the relevant polling place, see the "<a href="#">Maine Voter Information Lookup Service</a>" web page. 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. The registrar</p>	<p>The voter should go to the appropriate polling place associated with their new address. To determine the relevant polling place, see the "<a href="#">Maine Voter Information Lookup Service</a>" web page. 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</p>	<p>The voter will need to re-register to vote in person with the registrar of their new municipality on Election Day by showing proof of identity and residency.<sup>15</sup>The registrar then will issue</p>

<sup>10</sup> Me. Sec'y of State, *Elections FAQ*, [https://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/elections\\_faq.html#registering](https://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/elections_faq.html#registering)

<sup>11</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 121-A.

<sup>12</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 121(1-A).

<sup>13</sup> 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>.

<sup>15</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 129(3); 661.



then will issue a certificate to allow the person to vote. <sup>14</sup>	Election Day. The registrar then will issue a certificate to allow the person to vote.	a certificate to allow the person to vote.
--	--	--

**9. TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily. How 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.<sup>16</sup> So long as that voting residence is maintained, the voter should request an absentee ballot, which can be sent to an address other than the established residence.<sup>17</sup>

**10. 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, college students have the right to register in the municipality in Maine where they attend school if the student has a present intention to remain at their 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.<sup>18</sup>

College students attending school outside Maine who wish to establish or keep their voting residency in Maine (e.g. home or parents’ address) may do so as long as they have not registered to vote in another state.<sup>19</sup>

**11. LIVING ABROAD:** [I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?](#)

First-time voters living abroad or registered voters who need to update their registration may do so online through the [online registration portal](#).

Mainers living abroad also may register to vote by completing the [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#)

The completed FPCA can be submitted in one of three ways:

- by email to [UOCAVA.CEC@maine.gov](mailto:UOCAVA.CEC@maine.gov),
- by fax to 1-877-443-1302, or
- by mail to:  
Bureau of Corporations, Elections, and Commissions  
Elections Division  
101 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0101

To request an absentee ballot, fill out the [Federal Post Card Application](#) or submit an [online request](#).

---

<sup>14</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 129(3); 661.

<sup>16</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 111, 112(3).

<sup>17</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 758-A.

<sup>18</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 111, 112(1); <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/resident.html>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/resident.html>



Uniformed Service and Overseas (UOCAVA) voters should register and enroll using the last residence address where they lived in Maine immediately before leaving the United States.<sup>20</sup> In the event the requested absentee ballot does not arrive, please contact the Elections Division at 1-888-VOTESME (1-888-868-3763) or [UOCAVA.CEC@maine.gov](mailto:UOCAVA.CEC@maine.gov).

Voters can track the status of their absentee ballot request [here](#).

The deadline to submit a FPCA or request an absentee ballot is 12 p.m. the day before Election Day, or November 4, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election.<sup>21</sup>

The voter can choose to have their absentee ballot sent by mail or electronically. Depending on the method selected, the ballot will be mailed to the address provided or can be accessed through State's online service. Ballots must be returned on or before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, or November 5, 2024.<sup>22</sup>

**12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** [I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?](#)

Yes, you can still register and vote even if you have a felony or misdemeanor conviction. The type of conviction does not matter.<sup>23</sup> Check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

**13. INCARCERATED:** [I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?](#)

Yes. If the voter is incarcerated in a correctional facility or in a county jail, the voter is entitled to register for absentee voting in the Maine municipality where the voter previously established residency (a fixed and principal home to which the voter intends to return) prior to incarceration.<sup>24</sup> Incarcerated voters may vote from jail via absentee ballot.<sup>25</sup> See [Question #49](#). Voters who are residents of Maine do not lose their right to vote due to conviction or incarceration.<sup>26</sup> Incarcerated individuals should request an absentee ballot from office administrators at their complex.<sup>27</sup>

Check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

**14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED:** [My registration has been challenged, what should I do?](#)

If a ballot is challenged, the voter may nonetheless proceed to vote in the usual way using the ballot marked as challenged. After the election, 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

---

<sup>20</sup> Me. Sec'y of State, *Maine Voting Residence Fact Sheet*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/resident.html>.

<sup>21</sup> Me. Sec'y of State, Uniformed Service & Overseas (UOCAVA) Voters, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/uocava.html>.

<sup>22</sup> Me. Sec'y of State, Uniformed Service & Overseas (UOCAVA) Voters, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/uocava.html>.

<sup>23</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures, Felon Voting Rights, <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/felon-voting-rights>

<sup>24</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 112(14); Me. Sec'y of State, *Maine Voting Residence Fact Sheet*.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/felon-voting-rights>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/voting-rights-restoration/maine>

the election and the voter's name either retained or canceled from the central voter registration system.<sup>28</sup>

## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

### 15. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

For municipalities with a population of 500 or more, the polls must open no earlier than 6:00 a.m. and no later than 8:00 a.m. For municipalities with a population of less than 500, the polls must open no later than 10:00 a.m. The municipal officers of each municipality will determine the time of opening the polls within these limits.<sup>29</sup>

All polling places close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, except in municipalities with a population of less than 100, which may 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. Voters who arrive at the voting place after closing time may not vote. The municipal clerk will state the times of opening and closing of the polls in the notice of the election.<sup>30</sup> To find out when a voter's polling place opens, they should contact their municipal clerk.

### 16. **POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?

Voters can determine their proper polling place by checking the "[Maine Voter Information Lookup Service](#)" [web page](#) or by calling their [town office or city hall](#).<sup>31</sup>

### 17. **TIME OFF WORK:** Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?

No, Maine does not currently require employers to give employees time off to vote.<sup>32</sup>

### 18. **CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line?

Voters should not leave but should remain in line. They will be able to vote so long as they are in line when the polls close.<sup>33</sup>

### 19. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?

If a voter has registered to vote in advance in Maine, the voter does not need to show identification to get a ballot.<sup>34</sup> If a voter did not register to vote in advance, the voter will need to register at the polling place before voting which requires identification. See [Question #5](#).

---

<sup>28</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 673.

<sup>29</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 626(1).

<sup>30</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 626(2)-(3).

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/voterguide.html>.

<sup>32</sup> *State Laws on Voting Rights and Time off to Vote*, <https://www.workplacefairness.org/voting-rights-time-off-work/>.

<sup>33</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 626(2).

<sup>34</sup> 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>.

**20. NO IDENTIFICATION:** *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.<sup>35</sup> If a voter did not register to vote in advance, the voter will need to register before voting which requires identification. See [Question #5](#).

**21. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** *I am at my polling place but am not showing up 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. See [Question #16](#). If the voter has not been registered, Maine has same-day voting registration and the voter can register on the day of the election. See [Question #7](#). If the voter is not at the correct polling place, they should go to their correct polling place.

**22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** *I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?*

Provisional ballots are referred to as challenged ballots in Maine. A challenged ballot is a ballot cast by a voter whose eligibility or right to vote has been questioned at the time the voter is checking in to vote.<sup>36</sup>

In addition, if a voter attempts to register to vote on Election Day without ID and proof of residency, they may vote a challenged ballot and show ID at a later date.<sup>37</sup>

**23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL (CHALLENGED) BALLOT:** *I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?*

No qualified voter should be told that they cannot vote in Maine. Inquire why the voter was offered a challenged ballot. The following reasons are legitimate reasons for challenging a voter's qualifications:

- The voter is not enrolled in the proper party, if voting in a primary election;
- The voter is not qualified to be a registered voter because:
  - The voter does not meet the age requirements;
  - The voter is not a citizen of the United States; or
  - The voter is not a resident of the municipality or appropriate electoral district of the municipality;
- The voter did not provide satisfactory proof of identity and residency when registering;
- The voter did not properly apply for an absentee ballot;
- The voter did not properly complete the affidavit on the absentee return envelope;
- The voter did not cast the ballot or complete the affidavit before the appropriate witness;
- The voter engaged in a prohibited communication with another individual while marking their ballot;
- The voter did not return their ballot to the clerk within the prescribed time;
- The voter voted using the name of another;

---

<sup>35</sup> 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>

<sup>36</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 673; <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/index.html>.

<sup>37</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 673 Me Sec'y of State, *Your Right to Vote in Maine*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/right.html>.

- The voter voted using the wrong ballot for the electoral district or political party, if applicable; or
- The voter violated a provision of applicable Maine election law<sup>38</sup>

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. **A challenged ballot should be a last resort.**

#### 24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

All challenged ballots are initially counted in the same manner as regular ballots. In the event of a recount where there are enough challenged ballots to affect the outcome of the election, then the basis for each challenged ballot may be determined by the appropriate authority. If the voter must take further action to verify their identity or residency, the voter will be contacted by an election authority.<sup>39</sup>

## **HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING** **(in this state defined as: In-person Absentee Voting)**

#### 25. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or absentee voting)?

Yes, any registered voter can vote by absentee ballot by returning their absentee ballot by mail, placing it in a drop box, or in person. A voter does not need to have a specific reason for requesting their absentee ballot.<sup>40</sup> **Absentee ballots may be requested from 3 months before the Election Day until the 3rd business day before Election Day, or October 31, 2024, for the November 5, 2024 general election** (unless special circumstances exist).<sup>41</sup> Voters should make their request early to allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed to them. **Marked absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.**<sup>42</sup>

A voter may request an absentee ballot electronically [here](#) or directly from the municipal clerk in the [town or city](#) where they are registered to vote by completing an absentee ballot application or telephoning the clerk.<sup>43</sup>

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

<sup>38</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 673(1)(A).

<sup>39</sup> 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>.

<sup>40</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 751; Me. Sec'y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

<sup>41</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 752(1)(A), 753-B(2); Me. Sec'y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

<sup>42</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 755; Me. Sec'y of State, *Absentee Voting in Maine*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

<sup>43</sup> Sec'y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

No, a voter does not need to have a specific reason to vote early by absentee ballot provided the absentee ballot is requested by October 31, 2024.<sup>44</sup> Voters who have a specific reason justifying their absentee status such as absence or illness may still use an absentee ballot between October 31, 2024 and Election Day.

**27. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?**

A voter may vote absentee in the presence of a clerk as soon as absentee ballots are available, without completing an application for an absentee ballot.<sup>45</sup> 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. The deadline for absentee voting in the presence of the clerk, unless special circumstances exist, is 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the election or October 31, 2024 for the November 5 election.<sup>46</sup>

For more information on absentee voting, please visit the [Maine Secretary of State's "Absentee Voting Guide."](#)

**28. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?**

A voter may vote before Election Day only through in-person absentee voting at the municipal clerk's office or by returning the absentee ballot by mail or depositing it into a secured drop box, where available in the voter's municipality.<sup>47</sup> Drop box locations are posted [here](#).

**29. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?**

If a voter has registered to vote in advance in Maine, the voter does not need to show identification to get a ballot.<sup>48</sup> If a voter did not register to vote in advance, the voter will need to register before voting which requires identification. See [Question #5](#).

**30. ASSISTANCE: What if I need assistance voting early in person?**

An immediate family member of a voter may obtain and return an absentee ballot on behalf of the voter, provided the voter marks the ballot and seals it in an envelope.<sup>49</sup> A voter who needs assistance in reading or marking an absentee ballot may request another person, other than an agent of the voter's employer or union, to provide such assistance. When a voter requires assistance with reading or marking an absentee ballot, the ballot must be marked by the third person providing assistance or the voter in the presence of a witness, either a Notary public, municipal clerk, clerk of the courts or another individual.<sup>50</sup>

---

<sup>44</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 751. Sec'y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

<sup>45</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 753-B (8).

<sup>46</sup> Sec'y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

<sup>47</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 752-B.

<sup>48</sup> 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>.

<sup>49</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 754-A (1).

<sup>50</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 754-A(3).

For voters with a disability that prevents them from completing a paper ballot independently, an accessible absentee ballot may be requested [online](#).<sup>51</sup>

# **HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL**

**(in this state defined as: Absentee Voting)**

**31. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

Voters who will be at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self-identify as having a disability may apply for **ongoing absentee voter status** through an [application form](#). Completed forms must be returned to the voter's municipal clerk. Voters who qualify will automatically receive an absentee ballot for each election for which the voter is eligible to vote and need not submit a request for each election.

**32. ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

No. See [Question #26](#).

**33. APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

See [Question #50](#).

**34. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** Can someone assist me with filling out the application?

Yes, a voter who is unable to read, sign or complete an application because of physical disability, illiteracy or religious faith may receive assistance from another person, other than the voter's employer or union or an agent of the employer or union. If an aide reads or signs an application, the aide shall complete and sign the certificate on the application stating the aide assisted the voter.<sup>52</sup>

**35. APPLICATION RETURN:** How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

See [Question #53](#) and [Question #60](#).

**36. IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?

See [Question #51](#).

---

<sup>51</sup><https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>.

<sup>52</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 753-A(5).

37. **RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT:** Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

The ballot will be sent to the address listed on the application form which need not be the address on the voter registration card. If the person is unhoused or living in a shelter, the person is entitled to register to vote in the Maine municipality where they currently reside, even if the person has a non-traditional address such as a park bench or other physical location. The person may submit a physical description of their place of residence, under oath, to the municipal clerk in lieu of other residency documentation. Voters who are unhoused are not required to present a mailing address in order to register to vote.<sup>53</sup>

38. **MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

As long as the voter is registered, the voter should be allowed to vote in person by regular ballot as long as the registrar has not received a completed absentee ballot from the voter.<sup>54</sup>

39. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

See [Question #54](#).

40. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

See [Question #55](#).

41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

See [Question #56](#).

42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

See [Question #30](#).

43. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?

See [Question #58](#).

---

<sup>53</sup> Me. Sec'y of State, *Maine Voting Residence Fact Sheet*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/resident.html>.

<sup>54</sup> Sec'y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.



Yes, the ballot can be dropped off in person at the municipal clerk's office or deposited in a secured drop box located outside the municipal office building or building where in-person absentee voting takes place, where available in the voter's municipality.<sup>55</sup>

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

See [Question #59](#).

45. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

See [Question #60](#).

46. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

See [Question #61](#).

47. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

See [Question #62](#).

48. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

See [Questions #63 and 64](#).

## **HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE** **(in this state defined as: Absentee Voting)**

49. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

Any registered voter can vote by absentee ballot. Note, a voter does not need to have a specific reason to vote early by absentee ballot.<sup>56</sup>

There are numerous ways to request an absentee ballot:

First, voters may contact the [municipal clerk in the town or city](#) where they are registered to vote, in person, by phone or by mail.

---

<sup>55</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 751.

<sup>56</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 751.

Second, voters can request their own ballot electronically using the Secretary of State's [online absentee ballot request service](#).

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.<sup>57</sup>

The voter 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. 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.<sup>58</sup>

**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.<sup>59</sup>

In addition, voters who will be at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self-identify as having a disability may apply for [ongoing absentee voter status](#). Voters who qualify will automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide election, municipal election and any other election for which the voter is eligible to vote and need not submit a request for each election.<sup>60</sup>

#### 50. **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).<sup>61</sup> For the November 5, 2024 general election, the ballot must be requested by October 31, 2024. Voters should make their request early to allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed to them.

#### 51. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?

There are no identification requirements, so long as the voter has previously registered by providing a copy of identification. For first-time voters, see [Question #5](#) for additional information on acceptable proof of identification.

#### 52. **EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

Yes, under these special circumstances: a voter who (i) has an unexpected absence, (ii) has a physical or mental disability, (iii) is a resident of an island ward or precinct and is unable to travel to the polls, (iv) has an illness resulting in a voter's inability to leave home or treatment facility or (v) is a caregiver who is unable to travel to the polls due to illness or incapacity of another, can complete a special circumstances

---

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>

<sup>58</sup> *Id.*

<sup>59</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 754-A (1)(3).

<sup>60</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 753-A(8); <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html>.

<sup>61</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 753-A(1), 753-B(2); Me. Sec'y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

application to request an absentee ballot after the October 31, 2024 deadline.<sup>62</sup> Special Circumstances applications can be obtained from the municipal clerk or the Secretary of State.<sup>63</sup>

**53. APPLICATION RETURN:** Where and 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.<sup>64</sup> A voter may vote absentee at their town clerk's office as soon as absentee ballots are available, and up until the Thursday before Election Day, or October 31, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 election.. 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. See [Questions #25](#) and [#60](#).

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

Voters may check their absentee ballot status online through the online absentee ballot request service [here](#) or by contacting their [municipal clerk / election official](#).

**55. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

A voter informed by a local clerk of a defect in their absentee ballot return envelope may cure the defect or request a duplicate ballot in lieu of curing. Defects include mismatched signatures, missing signatures and incomplete witness certification.<sup>65</sup>

The voter should contact their [local clerk / municipal election](#) official to cure their ballot.

**56. COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the absentee ballot?

Voters should fill out the absentee ballot and return it to the municipal clerk as instructed.<sup>66</sup>

**57. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

See [Question 30](#).

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

---

<sup>62</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A M.R.S. § 753-B(2)(D).

<sup>63</sup> [https://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/elections\\_faq.html#registering](https://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/elections_faq.html#registering).

<sup>64</sup> 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>.

<sup>65</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 756-A.

<sup>66</sup> 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>.

Absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.<sup>67</sup> The postmark date is not relevant.

**59. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?**

A voter may drop off an absentee ballot at the office of its [municipal clerk](#). A voter also may deposit an absentee ballot in a secured drop box, if available in the voter's municipality.

**60. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone else 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. For ballots delivered in this way, a voter must mark the ballot in the presence of a witness – either a notary public, a municipal clerk, a clerk of courts, or two other individuals.<sup>68</sup>

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

A voter may receive a duplicate absentee ballot from the clerk, provided the voter has not marked and returned the initial absentee ballot.<sup>69</sup> A registered voter also should be allowed to vote in person by regular ballot if an absentee ballot is lost or spoiled. It is recommended that the voter bring the spoiled or incorrect ballot, if the voter still has it. The voter may also contact their [municipal clerk](#) for additional information.

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

The voter can track the progress of their absentee ballot [here](#). The ballot tracking system will show the voter the date that their absentee ballot application is accepted by the municipal clerk and the date the clerk mails out their ballot. The voter can use this tracking system regardless of how they initially requested their absentee ballot.

The voter should contact their [municipal election official](#) to inquire about receiving a replacement ballot or voting by in-person absentee ballot.

The voter who requested but did not receive an absentee ballot may vote in person on Election Day.<sup>70</sup>

**63. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?**

As long as the voter is registered, even if they requested an absentee ballot, the voter should be allowed to vote in person by regular ballot, provided they have not returned an absentee ballot that has been received and counted by the municipal clerk. If a returned absentee ballot has been received by the clerk

---

<sup>67</sup> 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>.

<sup>68</sup> Maine.gov, *Elections FAQ*, [https://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/elections\\_faq.html#registering](https://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/elections_faq.html#registering); Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 754-A(2).

<sup>69</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 753-B(4).

<sup>70</sup> Me. Sec'y of State, *Absentee Voting Guide*, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

before the voter goes to the poll, the voter’s name will appear on the voter list as having voted absentee and the voter will not be permitted to vote. If a returned absentee ballot is received by the clerk after the voter has voted in person, the absentee ballot will not be counted.<sup>71</sup> It is recommended that the voter bring the requested absentee ballot with them to their polling place, if the voter still has it.

**64. IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** *Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?*

See [Question # 27](#)

## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

Voters can determine their proper polling place by checking the “[Maine Voter Information Lookup Service](#)” web page or by calling their [municipal clerk’s office](#).

**66. LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I’m in line?

Voters should not leave and will be able to vote so long as they are in line by the poll closing time.<sup>72</sup>

**67. 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.

**68. CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?

A person may not influence or attempt to influence a voter’s decision regarding a candidate within 250 feet of the polling place entrance. 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. A person at the polls for the purpose of voting may wear a political pin or button no larger than three inches in length. In many polling places people are allowed to collect signatures or provide information so long as they do not attempt to interfere or influence the voter’s vote for something on the ballot. Sound amplifying devices are prohibited within 250 feet of a polling place.<sup>73</sup>

---

<sup>71</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 759(3)(D). Sec’y of State, Absentee Voting Guide, <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absenteeguide.html>.

<sup>72</sup>Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 626(2)(A).

<sup>73</sup>Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 682(2), (3).

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

See [Question 68](#).

Video and still photography is permitted outside the “guardrail,” a designated area near the voting booths for the election officials and no more than 2 voters in excess of the number of voting booths to wait.<sup>74</sup> Video and still photography may not be conducted closer than 15 feet from a voter.<sup>75</sup>

70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

See [Question #68](#).

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

See [Question #68](#).

Voters should immediately notify election officers if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable inside or outside the polling place.

72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should 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. A challenge must be made while a voter is checking in with the election clerk and before the voter enters the voting booth.

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 canceled from the central voter registration system depending on the outcome of the hearing.<sup>76</sup>

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

Police officers are permitted to be at the polling place.<sup>77</sup> Additionally, persons may not influence or attempt to influence a voter’s decision regarding a candidate within 250 feet of the polling place.<sup>78</sup>

---

<sup>74</sup>Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 627(2).

<sup>75</sup>Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 681(4).

<sup>76</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 673(1), (4), (7), 824.

<sup>77</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 681(1).

<sup>78</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A §§ 682(2).

74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should 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 their name does not appear correctly on the voter registration list.<sup>79</sup> In order to vote, a voter should bring proof of identification and residence and ask the registrar to correct the mistake.<sup>80</sup> (See [Question #5](#) for ID requirements) If the registrar concludes that the voter is eligible to vote, they will issue a certificate allowing the voter to vote.<sup>81</sup> If the voter cannot prove their identity and residency, the voter must be given a challenged ballot to cast their vote.<sup>82</sup>

75. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

See also the Election Day Voting section, [Questions 22-24](#).

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

- The voter is not enrolled in the proper party, if the voter is voting in a primary election;
- The voter is not qualified to be a registered voter because:
  - The voter does not meet the age requirements;
  - The voter is not a citizen of the United States; or
  - The voter is not a resident of the municipality or appropriate electoral district of the municipality;
- The voter did not provide satisfactory proof of identity and residency;
- The voter did not properly apply for an absentee ballot;
- The voter did not properly complete the affidavit on the absentee return envelope;
- The voter did not cast the ballot or complete the affidavit before the appropriate witness;
- The voter engaged in a prohibited communication while marking their ballot;
- The voter did not return their ballot to the clerk within the prescribed time;
- The voter voted using the name of another;
- The voter voted using the wrong ballot for the electoral district or political party, if applicable; or
- The voter violated a provision of applicable Maine election law.<sup>83</sup>

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. **A provisional (challenged) ballot should be a last resort.** All challenged ballots are counted in the same manner as a regular ballot. In the event of a recount where there are enough challenged ballots to affect the outcome of the election, then the basis for each challenged ballot may be determined by the appropriate authority. If the voter must take further action to verify their identity or residency, the voter will be contacted by an election authority.<sup>84</sup>

---

<sup>79</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 115(3).

<sup>80</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 661.

<sup>81</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 661(1).

<sup>82</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 121(1-A).

<sup>83</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 673(1)(A).

<sup>84</sup> 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>.



# ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

**76. 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 their choice, other than the voter's employer or union or an agent of the employer or 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.<sup>85</sup>

**77. PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

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 to 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.<sup>86</sup> In the event that a polling place is not accessible to a voter, they should contact the municipal election office.

See the Maine Secretary of State's ["Accessible Voting" page](#):

**78. 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 with voting is entitled to have a person of their choice, other than the voter's employer or union or an agent of the employer or 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 them.<sup>87</sup>

Additionally, Maine law requires that at least one voting booth in each voting place be accessible for people with disabilities.<sup>88</sup> Voters should have the right to use Maine's Accessible Voting System at every voting place.

**79. LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Any voter who needs assistance with voting is entitled to have some person of their choice, other than the voter's employer or union or agent of the employer or 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.<sup>89</sup>

Sample ballot instructions must be available in French.<sup>90</sup>

---

<sup>85</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 672(1).

<sup>86</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 629(1)(A-1), (4).

<sup>87</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 672.

<sup>88</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 629(1)(A-1), (4).

<sup>89</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 672.

<sup>90</sup> Me. Stat. tit. 21-A § 603(5).

**80. CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

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 vote by in-person absentee ballot. Many municipalities have absentee ballot drop boxes.

**81. VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

Yes.

## **STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT**

**82. RIGHT TO DUPLICATE BALLOT AT THE POLLS:** What happens if I make a mistake on my ballot on Election Day?

If a voter spoils a ballot, the voter may obtain a replacement ballot, not more than twice, by returning the spoiled ballot to the election clerk in charge of issuing ballots.<sup>91</sup>

**83. ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** How do I obtain an absentee ballot if I am living in a confidential residence for victims of domestic violence?

An individual participating in an established “Address Confidentiality Program” for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking or kidnapping may apply to the Secretary of State to have mail delivered to a designated address to protect the individual’s confidential residential location.<sup>92</sup> A voter who participates in an Address Confidentiality Program may use the voter code instead of their name on the absentee ballot envelope.<sup>93</sup>

**84. REGISTERING AND VOTING IN PERSON WITH CONFIDENTIAL ADDRESS:** Can I keep my address confidential when registering to vote or voting on Election Day?

The residence address for a voter participating in the Address Confidentiality Program shall be listed as confidential on the voter lists.<sup>94</sup>

**85. GUNS:** Are firearms permitted in the polling place?

Maine does not have a law prohibiting firearms in polling places.<sup>95</sup> Maine prohibits people from displaying a firearm or dangerous weapon in a threatening manner or carrying a concealed weapon without a valid permit to do so.<sup>96</sup>

---

<sup>91</sup> Me. Stat. Tit. 21-A § 693.

<sup>92</sup> Me. Stat. Tit. 5 § 90-B.

<sup>93</sup> Me. Stat. Tit. 5 § 753-C.

<sup>94</sup> Me. Stat. Tit. 5 § 624(1); Me. Stat. Tit. 5 § 90-B(4).

<sup>95</sup> <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/state-laws/location-restrictions-in-maine/>.

<sup>96</sup> Me. Stat. Tit. 25 § 2001-A.

86. **QUESTIONS:** 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 Secretary of State, Elections and Commissions](#) or call (207) 624-7650. Voters may also contact their [local election office](#).