# Maine Voter Registration Application Instructions

**Federally required questions. (Required)** A person who is **not a U.S. Citizen** is not eligible to register to vote. A person who is at least **16 years of age** may register to vote but must be at least 18 years of age to vote in a Municipal, General or Referendum election.

**Party affiliation. (Required)** Voters must check the box if they want to be a member of one of the three qualified political parties in Maine, in order to participate in party primaries, caucuses, conventions or other political party activities. Voters who check "Other qualifying party" (with or without writing a designation on the line provided) and voters who choose Unenrolled (no party choice) will be designated as "U" on the voting list and will not be eligible to vote in party primaries, caucuses and conventions, but can vote in other elections.

**Name of Voter. (Required)** A voter must provide the voter's **legal name**, as follows:

Last name (surname) must be listed (Suffixes, such as Sr., Jr., II, etc, may be included) **and**

First name and the middle name or initial; **or**

First initial and full middle name; **or**

First name only

**Date of Birth. (Required)** Voters must be at least 18 years of age in order to vote. Under Maine law, 16-year olds may pre-register (and enroll if desired).

**Current residence address. (Required)** Voters must provide the current street address or physical location where they have established their residence. This **cannot** be a P.O. Box.

**Current mailing address. (If applicable)** The mailing address is required **only** if it is different from the residence address and is where the voter receives mail. This can be a P.O. Box.

**Previous registration address. (Required)** If a voter previously has been registered to vote, the voter must check the "YES" box and **must** provide municipality, county, and state of previous registration. If **never** registered, the voter must check the "NO" box.

**Telephone number. (Optional)** If a voter provides a phone number, it becomes public information. A voter whose phone number is unpublished is cautioned against listing it on the application.

**Change of name. (If applicable)** This information is required **only** if the voter's legal name has been changed since registering to vote in Maine.

**Voter's Signature. (Required)** Voters must sign their legal name below the statement certifying that all the provided information is true.

**Voter ID or Unique ID Number. (For new Maine voters only)** The purpose of the voter ID number is to uniquely designate each **new** voter in the computerized statewide voter registration list. If the person is already registered to vote in Maine, this number is not required.

**A. Driver's License Number.** **New voters** who have a valid Maine Driver's License or a Maine State ID **must** list that number.

**B. Social Security Number.** **New voters** who do not have a valid Maine Driver's License or Maine State ID, must list the **last four digits** of their Social Security Number.

**C. NONE.** This designation may be used **only** by voters who **do not have** a Maine Driver's License/State ID or a Social Security Number.

**NOTE: Voter ID is confidential (i.e., not public) information and will be concealed during public inspection.**

**Instructions to Voters.** 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.

**For registrar's use only.** This space must be completed **only** by the municipal registrar.

**NOTE: If required information is omitted, the registrar must notify the applicant that the application is incomplete and must later reject the application if the required information is not provided. If optional information is omitted, the registrar must still process and accept the application.**

**If you are not a U.S. citizen, you cannot register to vote.**

# Application for Absentee Ballot
# November 3, 2020 General Election

**Absentee ballots will become available and will be provided to voters beginning in early October.**

**Application Received**
**(Date/Time)**

**Ballot Sent/Delivered**
**(Date/Time)**

**Voted absentee ballots must be received by the Municipal Clerk by 8 p.m. on November 3, 2020.**

1. Full Name of Registered Voter Requesting the Ballot _____

2. Residence Address of Voter _____ _____
   (Street Address) (Municipality)

3. Voter's Date of Birth ___ ___ / ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___
   m m d d y y y y

4. Contact Information – **Please complete. Clerk will use only to notify the voter if there is a problem with the application or ballot.**

   Daytime Phone Number _____

   Email Address _____

5. Method of Delivery of Ballot to the Voter

   a. ☐ Issued to Voter (Application Required if Voter will Vote **Outside the Municipal Clerk's Presence**)

   b. ☐ By Mail to this Address _____

   c. ☐ By Immediate Family Member of Voter

   Designated Here _____ _____
   (Name) (Relationship to Voter)

   d. ☐ By this 3rd Person (Designated by the Voter) _____ _____
   (Name) (Telephone #)

6. Signature of Voter *OR*
   Immediate Family Member of Voter _____ Date _____

   **Note:** If an immediate family member of the voter is completing this application, the relationship to the voter must be provided in 5(c) above. The absentee ballot can be delivered to the immediate family member in person or mailed to the address provided in 5(b).

7. Signature of Immediate Family Member Returning the Ballot _____

   Relationship to Voter _____
   (Complete Section #7 Only if Ballot was Delivered to the Voter or a Different Immediate Family Member of the Voter)

**AIDE CERTIFICATE (Must be Completed if Applicant was Assisted as Designated Below)**

If the voter received assistance in reading and/or signing this application, the person who assisted the voter must complete and sign this certificate.

**I helped this voter:** ☐ **read the application** ☐ **sign the application** ☐ **read and sign the application**

Signature of Aide _____ Printed Name of Aide _____

# ATTENTION

## >> Immediate Action Requested <<

## VOTING BY MAIL KEEPS YOU SAFE AND HEALTHY

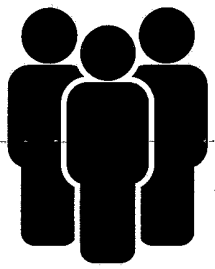
**Absentee Voting by Mail:** In Maine, you don't need an excuse to vote absentee. Because we want voting to be convenient for you, **we are sending you this absentee ballot application with a postage-paid envelope pre-addressed to your municipal clerk.** All you have to do is fill out and sign the form, place it in the mail, and your municipal clerk will send you a ballot in October. No waiting in line. No crowds.

1

If you prefer, you can request your ballot online at VoteInMaine.com/ballot or by calling your municipal clerk. **If you have already submitted a request for an absentee ballot, you do not need to submit another.**

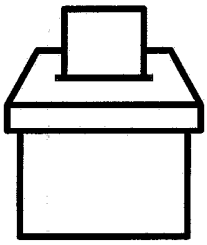
After your ballot is mailed to you, complete and return it as soon as possible! You can return a completed ballot by mail, in person to your town office, or to a drop box if your town has one. Remember, to be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk by 8PM on Election Day, so request your ballot today!

2



**Early Voting in Person:** Maine voters can also vote in person before Election Day! You may vote absentee at your municipal clerk's office from October 5th to October 29th, unless special circumstances exist. You don't need to complete an application if you vote in person at the clerk's office.

3



**Voting on Election Day:** You can also vote on Election Day. Polls will open between 6AM and 10AM depending on where you live, and they'll close at 8PM. Nearer to Election Day, find your polling place by visiting: VoteInMaine.com/lookup

Any questions? We're here to help! Call, text, or email the Voter Hotline at (207) 990-0788 or email vote@voteinmaine.com

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NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE.

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## ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTER INTRUCTIONS

**Please Review Before Voting to Avoid Errors**

- Before you or the aide mark the ballot, the witness must see that it is blank.
- While voting, you may not talk to anyone other the aide.
- You or your aide if you are unable, must sign the envelope on back flap where it is highlighted.

**Voter Signature** X _____ (Must be signed by Voter or Aide, if assisted)

**Name of Voter** _____ (Must be written in ink or typed by Clerk)

**Voting Residence** _____ (Must be written in ink or typed by Clerk)

- The aide must also complete and sign the **"Aide Certificate"** on the back of the envelope
- The witness must also complete and sign the **"Witness Certificate"** on the back of the envelope

**AIDE CERTIFICATE** (Must be completed if an Aide assisted this voter by reading and/or marking this ballot.) **I helped this voter read and/or mark this ballot as the election law requires.**

Signature of Aide _____ Printed Name of Aide _____

**WITNESS CERTIFICATE** If witness(es) are required, check applicable boxes and sign below:

- ☐ An Aide assisted this voter, as stated above, and/or
- ☐ The ballot was voted in the presence of the Municipal Clerk, and/or
- ☐ This ballot was delivered and/or returned by someone other than the voter or an immediate family member of the voter.

Signature _____ Printed Name _____ Title, if any _____

Signature _____ Printed Name _____ Title, if any _____

## BALLOT HANDLED BY A THIRD-PARTY PERSON

- If at your request, your ballot is issued to a 3rd person who is not a member of your immediate family (this cannot be a candidate or family member of a candidate or your employer), You will need to mark your ballot in the presence of **TWO** witnesses. You may also have just one witness that is a Notary Public or a Clerk of Courts.
- There must be no communication between the voter and the witnesses regarding the ballot races. You should mark the ballot so it is not possible for the witnesses to see how the ballot is voted.
- The **"Witness Certificate"** must be completed and signed by BOTH witnesses.

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS COULD RESULT IN YOUR BALLOT NOT BEING COUNTED. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WITNESS OR AIDE CERTIFICATION PLEASE CALL THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: (207) 324-9125**

## RETURNING YOUR VOTED BALLOTS

✓ Voters are encouraged to return their ballots as soon as possible to allow staff the time to process ballots given the high volume of ballots anticipated for this election. This is greatly appreciated! This also gives time to contact you if there is a signature missing.

**1. What is ranked-choice voting?**

Ranked-choice voting, sometimes called "instant run-off voting," allows voters to choose their candidates in order of preference, by marking candidates as their first, second, third, and subsequent choices. The votes are tabulated in rounds, with the lowest-ranked candidates eliminated in each round until there are only two candidates left. The one who is determined to have received the majority of the votes (more than 50%) in the final round is declared the winner. It is different from our previous method of voting, in which voters choose only one candidate for each office and the winner is determined by plurality (whoever gets the most votes).

**2. Why are we using ranked-choice voting?**

The full timeline of ranked-choice voting in Maine explains the path that has led to the use of this method of voting. At this time, based on statewide votes, legal decisions and the provisions of the Maine Constitution, the State of Maine is using ranked-choice voting for all of Maine's state-level primary elections, and in general elections ONLY for federal offices, including the office of U.S. President. The ranked-choice rounds are used only in races in which there are more than two candidates

**3. How does RCV work?**

The tabulation process and other details of implementing RCV are explained in the rules that govern the process. If no candidate wins a majority of votes on Election Night in the races that have three or more candidates, the ballots and memory devices from each municipality are securely transported to a central tabulation site in Augusta. There, the winner is determined via rounds. The animated video shows the application of the rules in an example RCV tabulation. You can also view our examples of marked ballots to learn how the tabulation rules are applied.

**4. How are you making sure that my vote is secure and will be accurately counted?**

The Department of the Secretary of State takes security issues very seriously and has several measures in place to ensure the integrity of the voting process and validity of the results. Implementation of ranked-choice voting will not change the fact that the voting process in Maine is not online nor linked to any network, which makes it far less susceptible to cyberattacks. The RCV tabulation will not be online in any way, at any point in the process. All computers related to ballot layout and tabulation are also closed systems, not connected to any sort of network/internet. Ballots and memory sticks from tabulation machines are locked and sealed, with strict procedures establishing the chain of custody. Those procedures will be retained with RCV. The software to determine the results will be operated on hardwired computers that are on a closed system. None of the tabulator machines currently in use statewide have connectivity capability, and we use paper ballots for all elections, which are fully auditable.

The only aspect of Maine's voting system that is connected to the internet is the Central Voter Registration system, which allows municipal clerks to update voter information. However, it is password-protected and monitored by in-house Information Services staff for any attempts at unauthorized use. Additionally, Maine has same-day voter registration, so no voter can be disenfranchised at the polls due to an error related to their registration.

**5. How can I learn more about the candidates and issues on ballots?**

The Department of the Secretary of State will post a list of candidates for each office as well as a Citizens Guide to the Referendum Election on our Upcoming Elections page. The non-partisan guide, published for every referendum election, explains the referendum issues. Information on candidates, including their positions on the issues of the day, is not available via our department. Voters should look to candidates websites, social media and printed outreach materials, as well as Maine media outlets and public debates for this information.

**6. Why don't we use RCV in the governor's race or legislative races in the general election?**

The Justices of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court issue a unanimous advisory opinion at the request of legislators in May 2017, concluding that the parts of the ranked-choice voting law that apply to general elections for State Representative, State Senator and Governor were unconstitutional under the Maine Constitution because the Maine Constitution requires the winners of those offices in a general election to be decided by a plurality. Primary elections in Maine and elections for federal offices are governed by statute and not by the Maine Constitution.

Beginning with the November 3, 2020 General Election, the U.S. Presidential race is also conducted using ranked-choice voting, per the law passed in 2019: *Ch. 539, Public Laws of 2019, "An Act To Implement Ranked-choice Voting for Presidential Primary and General Elections in Maine."*

**7. What if I want to rank my choices among the write-in candidates?**

The ranked-choice voting law states that a voter may include no more than one write-in candidate among that voter's ranked choices for each office. Thus, you will see only one space on your ballot to write in a candidate's name and rank that candidate. You can view the full list of qualified write-in candidates on our Upcoming Elections page. All write-in candidates must be formally declared as such, by the deadline prior to the election; write-in votes for any undeclared persons will not be counted.

**8. How much does ranked-choice voting cost?**

For 2018, including startup costs and both the primary and general elections, ranked-choice voting cost $441,804 in addition to the other regular costs. See the itemized breakdown here.

VALID MARKING: All candidates ranked in order of preference

| Governor | 1st Choice | 2nd Choice | 3rd Choice | 4th Choice | 5th Choice | 6th Choice | 7th Choice | 8th Choice |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Duck, Donald | O | ● | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| Flintstone, Fred | O | O | O | O | O | ● | O | O |
| Grainger, Hermione | ● | O | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| Mouse, Michael | O | O | O | O | O | O | ● | O |
| Man, Spider | O | O | O | O | ● | O | O | O |
| Man, Super | O | O | ● | O | O | O | O | O |
| Woman, Wonder | O | O | O | ● | O | O | O | O |
| Write-in *Bear, Smokey* | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | ● |

SLIDE 3: You can fill out the ballot completely based on your order of preference for the candidate you would like to see in that office. Your first choice will be counted on Election Night and your subsequent choices will be counted in the rounds of ranked-choice voting tabulation, by order of preference, for continuing candidates who have not yet been eliminated.

VALID MARKING: Some candidates ranked in order of preference

| Governor | 1st Choice | 2nd Choice | 3rd Choice | 4th Choice | 5th Choice | 6th Choice | 7th Choice | 8th Choice |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Duck, Donald | O | ● | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| Flintstone, Fred | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| Grainger, Hermione | ● | O | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| Mouse, Michael | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| Man, Spider | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| Man, Super | O | O | ● | O | O | O | O | O |
| Woman, Wonder | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O |
| Write-in | O | O | O | O | O | O | O | O |

SLIDE 4: You do not need to rank ALL of the candidates. Perhaps you like some but have no interest in seeing the others elected to that office under any circumstances. Simply rank only those candidates you support.