



10 Things Every Maine Poll Worker Should Know



As a poll worker, your job is to help every eligible voter make their voice heard. Below is a list of things to know before you report for your poll worker assignment.



Maintaining social distance of 6 feet and wearing masks are the primary tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at polling places

The Secretary of State issued guidance requiring all individuals to maintain 6 feet of physical distance from individuals who are not a part of their household group wherever possible. Voters should be strongly encouraged to wear face masks, but CANNOT be turned away from voting for not doing so. For more information, review the [COVID Checklist for Maine Elections](#).



Registered voters do NOT need to show ID

Anyone voting at your polling place who is already registered to vote does NOT need to show an ID to cast a ballot. If the voter registered via mail without providing ID or proof of residence, then they may be required to do so.



Same day voter registration IS permitted in Maine

Maine voters who are not registered to vote, or who need to change their voting address, can register on Election Day and vote. To register on Election Day, new Maine voters must show proof of identification and residency. If the voter has registered previously to vote in Maine, they do not need to show ID.

Examples of acceptable forms of documentation include:

- ✓ **Government-issued photograph ID or credential:** current and valid US passport, military identification, driver's license or state identification
- ✓ **Other government-issued ID:** birth certificate or a signed social security card
- ✓ **Other official documents:** a document confirming eligibility determinations for public benefits, a utility bill, a bank statement, a government check, a paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter
- ✓ **Verified unique ID for new voters:** the voter's Maine driver's license number, Maine ID number or the last 4 digits of the voter's social security number that are successfully verified through the central voter registration system
- ✓ **Any government document with your name and address will do.**



Ranked Choice Voting is allowed for all Governor, State Legislative, and Congressional races

Maine allows voters to vote using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for all Governor, State Legislative and Congressional races. Ranked choice voting allows voters to rank the candidates for those races in the order of their preference. If no candidate wins a majority of the votes, an instant runoff happens and the candidate with the least support is eliminated. This process continues until only one candidate remains. For additional information on Ranked Choice Voting, visit the [Department of the Secretary of State's RCV Resource page](#).



A voter whose eligibility is questioned CANNOT be turned away and instead should be allowed to vote a challenged ballot

A challenged ballot is how a voter whose eligibility is questioned is permitted to vote during Election Day. These voters should NOT be turned away. ALL challenged ballots are initially counted in the same manner as regular ballots. No further determination is made on the validity of the challenged ballot unless a recount occurs and it is determined that the challenged ballot could affect the outcome of the election.



Voters have a right to assistance in voting

ANY voter who is unable to read or mark their ballot may request another person, including a poll worker, to assist the voter in reading or marking the ballot. However, the voter's employer (or agent of that employer) or any agent of a voter's union may NOT assist a voter in casting their ballot. Anyone assisting the voter may NOT influence the voter's choice.



Report a voting machine problem immediately

Call for repair and contact your local election office.



Voters have the right to use Maine's Accessible Voting Systems

Maine's Secretary of States has implemented an initiative to provide an Accessible Voting System (AVS) called ExpressVote at each of Maine's voting places. The ExpressVote is a table-top ballot-marking device that allows individuals with disabilities to vote with privacy and independence, where voters can navigate through their ballot using a touchscreen, or a keypad and audio interface. For more information about Maine's AVS, visit the Department of the Secretary of State's Accessible Voting page.



All voters in line at the 8:00PM closing time must be allowed to register and vote

All Maine polling places are open until 8pm. Any voters who are present at the polling place CANNOT be turned away and must be provided the opportunity to register to vote if needed and to vote. Only after all voters have finished voting and have exited the polling place should you complete the end-of-day poll closure procedures.



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