

General Voter Registration Information

Who can register and vote in Maine? To **register**, you must be a United States citizen, at least 17 years of age, and have established a fixed principal home in Maine. To **vote** in a Referendum or General Election, you must be registered in the community where you reside, and be at least 18 years of age. A 17 year old may vote in a Primary Election, if that person will be 18 by the General Election.

How do I register to vote? You fill out a voter registration card.

Where do I go to register? You can register to vote at the Orono town office, through any Motor Vehicle branch office, in most state & federal social service agencies, or at voter registration drives. Completed voter registration cards may be hand delivered or mailed to the town office, or sent to the Secretary of State's Office in Augusta.

Is there a deadline for registering? There is no cut-off date for registering to vote **in person** at the town office. If you want to register to vote by mail or through a voter registration drive, the cut-off date is the close of business on the 21st day before the election.

**TO VIEW MAINE RESIDENCY FACTS,
PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO THE END OF THIS SUMMARY.**

General Voting / Poll Information


Where do I go to vote? The Town of Orono has three voting places depending on size/type of Election where people vote, called voting places or "the polls". Voting places open at 7:00 a.m., and close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. The three places Orono hosts Elections is the Town Council Chambers (local) and the Orono Middle School for W1/P1&P3 and UMAINE Memorial Union for W1/P2.

How do I mark a ballot? Each ballot tells you how to mark your choices. If you have a question, ask an election official. If you make a mistake, fold your ballot and give it to an election official. The election official will give you another ballot.

Can I have help voting? Yes. If you need help reading or marking the ballot, you may ask a relative or friend for assistance. The helper does not have to be a voter or old enough to vote. An election official can also help you read or mark a ballot. However, your employer or union official cannot help you vote.

Do I need to go to the polls on Election Day to vote? No. Any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person at the voting place. You do not need to have a specific reason or be unable to vote at the voting place on Election Day to use an absentee ballot.

For additional information, contact: Office of the Secretary of State
Division of Elections
101 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0101
(207) 624-7650
CEC.Elections@maine.gov

MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION			PARTY AFFILIATION	
 <p>1 Federally required questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Will you be 18 years of age on or before Election Day? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <p>If you checked "no" in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form. You must be a U.S. citizen in order to vote.</p>			<p>This portion <u>must</u> be completed.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Green Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Other qualifying party: <input type="checkbox"/> Unenrolled (no party choice)	
LAST NAME 3	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	DATE OF BIRTH MM / DD / YY 4	
CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Physical address where you live)				
STREET NAME AND NUMBER, NOT A P.O. BOX 5A			CITY, TOWN, PLANTATION OR TOWNSHIP	
CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Complete if different from above address)				
STREET NAME AND NUMBER, OR P.O. BOX, etc. 5B			CITY/TOWN	ZIP CODE
Have you previously been registered to vote? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			TELEPHONE (Optional)	
If the answer is "yes" provide address of previous registration on below.			6	
CITY/TOWN 5C	COUNTY	STATE		
COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD - PLEASE PRINT				

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING THE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

All required items on the card must be completed or it may be rejected. No witness or notary is required. Common questions are answered below. NOTE: This is a sample card--other versions may look different.

- 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 **17** 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, 17-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.

MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION	
- COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD -	
CHANGE OF NAME (Prior legal name, if applicable) LAST <u>7</u> FIRST MIDDLE SIGN AND DATE THIS CARD. I certify that all the information I have provided on this form is true. Signature of Applicant on line above _____ Date on line above _____ <u>8</u>	VOTER ID: By federal law, NEW Maine voters must provide an applicable ID number as follows: 1. Your Maine driver's license/Maine State ID <u>9A</u> 2. The last 4 digits of your Social Security Number (ONLY if you don't have a Maine driver's license/Maine State ID); or <u>9B</u> 3. Write "none" ONLY if you don't have either 1 or 2. <u>9C</u> _____
REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY: Date Received _____ Ward-Precinct: _____ Source of Registration: <input type="checkbox"/> In Person <input type="checkbox"/> By Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Agency <input type="checkbox"/> BMV <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration Drive/3 rd Person Type of Registration: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW Maine Voter Registration Form of Proof for ID: _____ for Residency: <u>11</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Existing Voter Registration (check boxes below) Form of Proof for Residency: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change to new municipality <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change within municipality <input type="checkbox"/> Party Enrollment Change <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change <input type="checkbox"/> Other Change _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate Application (no changes made)	
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Failure to complete this entire application may prevent registration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver or mail this completed card to your municipal registrar or to the Division of Elections: #101 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0101. This properly completed application must be received by the municipal registrar 21 days or more before an election. If less than 21 days before an election, you must register in person. • If you are a NEW Maine voter and mail this card, you must include a photocopy of your Maine driver's license, Maine State ID, or current utility bill, bank statement or government document that shows your name and address. • For election information, call 207-624-7650 or visit www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/ <u>10</u> (rev. 06/12) 	

7. **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.

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

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **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.

Maine Voting Residence Fact Sheet
Prepared by the Elections Division of the Secretary of State, August 2012

Eligibility to Register and Vote in Maine

To be eligible to register to vote in Maine, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States;
- Be at least 17 years of age (you must be at least 18 years of age to vote, except that in primary elections you may vote if you are 17 but will be 18 by the general election);
- **Have established and maintain a voting residence in the municipality (i.e. city, town, plantation or unorganized township) where you seek to register.**

Maine Voting Residence

“Residence” is defined in the Maine election law (Title 21-A, section 112(1)) as “that place where the person has established a fixed and principal home to which the person, whenever temporarily absent, intends to return.” Note that this definition has two components: 1) the establishment of a fixed and principal home in a given place, and 2) the intent to return there whenever temporarily absent.

Under this definition, residence is something that you establish, not something you choose.

You may offer any of the following factors, which the Registrar of Voters may consider in determining whether you have established a residence in a particular municipality in Maine:

- a direct statement of your intention to reside at a particular place;
- the location of any dwelling you currently occupy;
- the place where you have registered your motor vehicle (if you own the vehicle);
- your current income tax return showing your residence address;
- the residence address where your mail is received;
- the residence address on your current hunting or fishing license;
- the residence address shown on your driver’s license;
- your eligibility for public benefits based on residency; or
- any other objective facts that tend to indicate your place of residence.

Residency and Domicile

Maine courts have held that voting residency as defined in Maine’s election statutes is equivalent to the common law concept of domicile. Whereas “residence” typically refers to the location where you physically reside, domicile means something more. In order to establish domicile, you must intend to make a place your home, and not just physically live there.

Once you have established a fixed and principal home where you live, that home is assumed to be your domicile until you establish a new one. Changing your domicile usually requires action – moving some place -- and intent -- intending for the new place to become your home. You may live in two different homes during different parts of the year, but as a matter of law you can have only one domicile and thus only one voting residence. Therefore, when you complete a voter registration application, you must provide an address where you were previously registered to vote (either within or outside of Maine), unless you are registering to vote for the first time.

Consequences of Declaring Your Voting Residence (by Registering to Vote) in Maine

You should be aware that if you register to vote in Maine, you will be deemed to have declared residency in Maine, which may have consequences for compliance with other Maine laws, including the motor vehicle laws and tax laws. If you drive a car in Maine, you are required to obtain a Maine driver's license within thirty days of establishing residency here. Driving without a Maine license more than ninety days after you have established residency in the state is a crime under Maine law. **If you are a resident of Maine and own a vehicle here, state law also requires you to register that vehicle in Maine within thirty days of establishing residency. By declaring Maine as your voting residence, you may be treated as a resident of Maine for income tax purposes and be subject to Maine income tax.**

Residency requirements for college students, military personnel, incarcerated persons, and citizens living outside the United States

Students. If you are a student, you have the right to register in the municipality in Maine where you attend school, provided you have established a voting residence there as defined in Maine's election laws and explained above. You can establish a voting residence at your Maine school address if you have a present intention to remain at that address for the time being, whether that residence is a dorm, apartment, house or even a hotel. Maine law expressly provides that you will not gain or lose residency solely because of your presence in or absence from the state while attending school, and this provision may not be interpreted "to prevent a student at any institution of learning from qualifying as a voter" in the town "where the student resides while attending" that school. In other words, as a student, you must meet the same residency requirements as all other potential voters. You must first determine where you have established residency and then register to vote there. **If you pay "out-of-state tuition" as a student at a Maine college or university, that does not preclude you from establishing residency in Maine for voting purposes.** If you have established residency in another municipality or state, you may vote by absentee ballot in that state.

If you lived in Maine prior to attending school and you wish to establish or keep your voting residency in Maine at that location (e.g., at your parents' home address)- you may do so as long as you have not already registered to vote in another state. Maine students may keep their voting residency even if they move out of the county, state, or country to attend school. The only way you will lose this residency is if you "abandon" it by asserting residency in a new state. If you have registered to vote in another state, you will have to re-qualify as a Maine resident by providing proof of residency before you can register.

Uniformed Service Voters. If you are a member of the uniformed service, and are qualified to register to vote, you do not gain or lose residency solely because of your presence or absence while on active duty in the uniformed service. Generally, the home of record that you claim for your service branch is your established residency for voting purposes. If that legal residence is in Maine, you may register to vote at that address. Your spouse or dependents may have the same voting residence as you do, or they may have established and maintain a separate residence where they would register to vote.

Citizens living outside the United States (also called "Overseas Voters"). If you are qualified to register to vote, but you reside outside the United States and you do not maintain a fixed and principal home or other address in Maine, you may register and enroll using the last residence address where you lived in Maine immediately before leaving the United States.

Incarcerated persons. 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.