

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.

Questions Involving Access to the Ballot:

1. It is after 9:00 A.M. (10:00 A.M. in municipalities with populations less than 4,000) and the polling place is not open.

The officers of each municipality shall determine the opening time of the polls, which may be between 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. (or 10:00 A.M. in municipalities with populations of less than 4,000) and the opening time will be posted on the notice of an election.

To find out when a polling place should open and to report polling places that are not open, contact the municipality election official. Information on election official contacts can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.htm>.

If the polling place is open at the appointed time, but the voting machines (or paper ballots) have not arrived, contact the municipality. Voters should be permitted to vote by paper ballots. If this does not happen, contact the municipality election official. Information on election official contacts can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.htm>.

2. It is 8:00 P.M. and my precinct is closed or closing and they will not let me vote.

Immediately contact the municipality election official. You can find contact information at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.htm>.

3. There are equipment problems at my precinct and I cannot vote. What should I do?

Immediately contact the municipality election official. You can find contact information at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.htm>. In addition, ask to vote by a back-up paper ballot or by provisional ballot.

Identification and Provisional Ballots:

1. I do not have any identification with me. Can I vote?

Yes. If you have registered to vote in advance, you may vote without identification. If you did not register in advance, you may vote by presenting proof of identity and residency to the registrar and then presenting a certificate from the registrar at the polling place. The registrar is required to have office hours while the polls are open on Election Day. Even if you cannot prove identity and residency, you will be permitted to cast a challenged ballot.

2. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my precinct. Can I vote?

First, confirm using the online poll locator, make sure you are at the correct polling place. The polling place locator is available at http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup_polling_place.php.

If you are at the correct polling place, ask the poll worker to call the registrar or clerk to confirm your registration. If you are not on the rolls, you may go to the registrar's office and register on Election Day, as described at item 1 above. You may also vote using a challenged ballot.

3. Poll workers are turning voters away if they don't have photo ID.

[Contact a Commander immediately to report the problem. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. Encourage the voter to go back inside the polling place and demand the right to vote by a REGULAR ballot.][See general note above. Who should voters contact? Who is a Commander?]

4. I have been offered a challenged ballot. What should I do?

Challenged ballots should only be used as a last resort. If you are not on the incoming voter list, try to resolve as described in items 1-3 above before filling out a challenged ballot.

Where to Vote:

1. Where do I vote (for voters who have not moved)?

You can look up polling locations at http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup_polling_place.php

2. I have moved within the same municipality and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

If you have moved within the same municipality, you should go to the appropriate polling place for your precinct. If the voter registration list still lists your old address, you will need to go to the municipal registrar's office to obtain a certificate of the address change. You will then be able to present the certificate to the election official and vote.

3. I have moved to a different municipality and I have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

You should go to the registrar's office for the new municipality and register in person by presenting proof of identity and residency. You can then present the registrar's certificate and vote at the new polling location that corresponds to your new address.

Assistance at the polls:

1. I am physically disabled and need assistance; will my polling place be accessible?

Maine law requires that each polling place be accessible to physically disabled voters, that at least one voting booth in each voting place be accessible for persons 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. In the event that a polling place is not accessible to you, please contact the municipality election official. [If a voter reports that a polling place is not accessible to the handicapped, contact a Commander so an attorney can get in touch with the responsible election official to report the problem immediately.]

2. Can I get assistance at the polls? I am blind, physically disabled, illiterate, or need assistance.

If you require assistance at the polls, you can take a person of your choice (including one or more election officials) into the voting booth (except an employer, or an agent of employer, or an officer or agent of one's union). [Election Protection volunteers can serve as assistants if asked to do so by the voter. If a poll worker refuses to allow a voter to bring a person of the voter's choice into the voting booth, call a Commander.]

Miscellaneous Issues:

1. I have been approached by candidates or others at the polls.

No one may attempt to influence another person's decision regarding a candidate or question on the ballot, display advertising material, operate an advertising medium, or distribute materials on public property within 250 feet from the entrance to the polling place or a registrar's office. A candidate may attend a voting place and orally communicate with voters as long as the candidate does not attempt to influence their votes. A candidate may not state the name of the office sought or request a person's vote. Party workers and others may remain in the voting place outside the guardrail enclosure as long as they do not attempt to influence voters or interfere with their free passage. If anyone is violating the 250-foot or no-campaigning requirement, [contact the Legal Command Center to report the problem, let them know the extent of the problem and work with them to assess if calling an election official is necessary.]

[Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the registrar's office for that municipality. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.]

2. There are people at the polls trying to intimidate voters.

[Call the Commander immediately. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. If the voter agrees, put the voter on hold while you call a Commander so the Legal Command Center can send an attorney to the location immediately. Then, gather as much information from the voter as possible.]

3. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as you are registered, even if you requested OR returned an absentee ballot, you should be allowed to vote in person by REGULAR ballot. Any returned absentee ballot will not be counted if you have voted in person.

4. I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?

Yes. In Maine, there is no limitation on voting relating to criminal convictions.

5. I am a college student. Can I vote where I go to school?

College students may register and vote where they go to school provided that they have established residence there. A person's established residence is that place where the person has established a fixed and principal home to which the person, whenever temporarily absent, intends to return. Students must be held to the SAME eligibility requirements as any other voter in the jurisdiction.