Information for Voters from the Secretary of State

For the July 14, 2020 State Primary and Special Referendum Election
May 15, 2020

As of the date of this notice, the plan for the July 14th election is to have both absentee voting and in-person voting on election day as usual. However, because the pandemic situation is constantly changing, and we know that social distancing measures play an important role in controlling the outbreak, we are recommending that Maine voters use the absentee voting process.

Requesting Your Absentee Ballot

It is easy to request an absentee ballot – there are several ways to do that:

1. Fill out the Absentee Ballot Request form attached to this information sheet. Please fill it out completely and legibly. Don't forget to provide your telephone number so that the Municipal Clerk can call you if they need any further information in order to process your request. Any Maine voter can use this form to request their own ballot or to make a request for a ballot to be sent to their immediate family member.
2. Call your Town or City Clerk's office and make a telephone request for your own ballot.
3. Make a request through the State's online Absentee Ballot Request service at this web page: https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl

Ballots will be printed and provided to the cities and towns at least 30 days before the election – or by June 12th. If you requested to have the ballot mailed to you, it will be sent out after that date.

What State Ballots Will You Receive?

1. If you are enrolled as a Democrat or Republican, you will receive a primary ballot and a separate referendum ballot.
2. If you are enrolled as a Green Independent, you will receive a primary ballot only if you live in one of the districts that has a candidate for State Representative, but you will receive a referendum ballot.
3. If you are not enrolled in a party, you will only receive a referendum ballot.

Some municipalities have local elections on July 14th as well, so you may receive state and local ballots in one mailing envelope.

Marking Your Ballot

1. Carefully read any instructions provided with your ballots, as well as the instructions printed on the ballots themselves.
2. Use a black or blue ballpoint pen to mark your ballot and fill in the ovals completely. There may be contests on both sides of the ballot, so be sure you have marked all contests.
3. After you have marked all the ballots, re-fold the ballots and place them into the return envelope. Sign your name on the flap of the envelope where the space is provided for the voter's signature.
4. Wet the adhesive under the flap or tape the envelope to seal it.

Returning Your Voted Ballot – It Must Be Received by the Clerk by 8 pm on Election Day

1. Put first class postage on the envelope and mail it to the Clerk's Office (allow sufficient mailing time).
2. Return the ballot to the Clerk's Office in person – call first to see if they are open or whether they have a drop box for secure return of the ballot when the office is closed.