



**Inside:**  
questions on  
the November  
ballot

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# Rep. Jeff McCabe

## 2012 Ballot Summary

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### Dear Neighbor,

On November 6 Mainers will consider five statewide referenda at the polls. Included in this newsletter is a summary of material provided by the Maine Secretary of State and Attorney General's offices on all five of the questions and how they will impact the state.

This November we will consider a citizens' initiative that would allow the state to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples and four separate bond questions.

I hope that this summary is useful to you as you consider these important decisions on November 6. You can view the entire report by visiting the Secretary of State's web site at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/2012/CITIZENS%20GUIDE.pdf>, or contact me if you need a printed copy.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jeff McCabe

House District 85 - Skowhegan

the Federal Aviation Administration.

If approved, the authorization of these bonds would take effect 30 days after the Governor's proclamation of the vote.

**A "YES" vote favors the issuance of up to fifty-one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$51,500,000) in general obligation bonds to finance the projects described above.**

**A "NO" vote opposes the bond issue in its entirety.**

### Question 5 - Bond Issue

**Do you favor a \$7,925,000 bond issue to be expended over 2 years for revolving loan funds for drinking water systems and for wastewater treatment facilities, which will make the State eligible to secure \$39,625,000 in federal grants?**

This Act would authorize the State to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed seven million nine hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$7,925,000) to raise funds for drinking water and wastewater treatment programs, as described below. The bonds would run for a period not longer than 10 years from the date of issue and would be backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

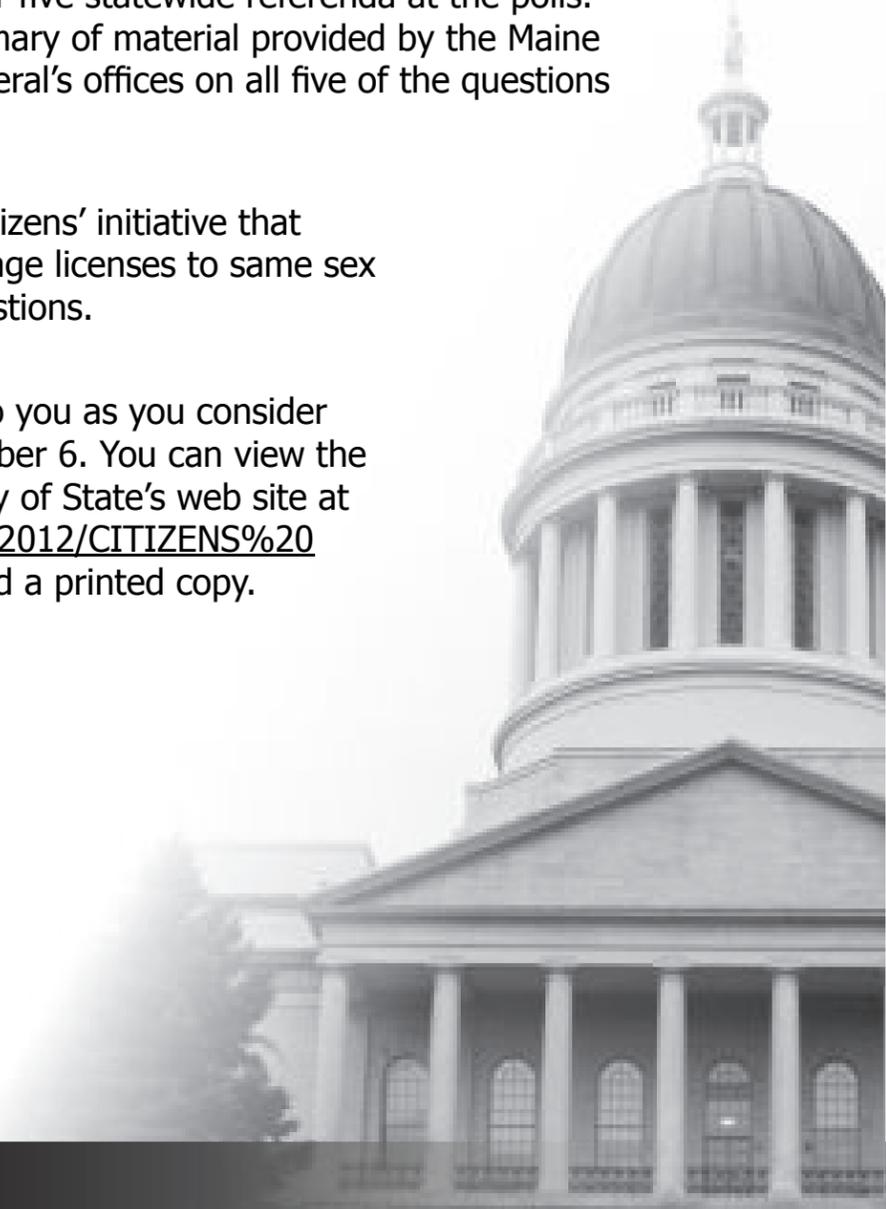
Proceeds of the sale of these bonds in the amount of three million five hundred and ninety thousand dollars (\$3,590,000) would go into the state's safe drinking water revolving loan fund, administered by the Maine Bond Bank and the Department of Health and Human Services. Loans from this fund may be issued to eligible public water systems to design, construct or improve drinking water supplies or treatment and distribution systems, or for any actions authorized or required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996. This funding would make the State eligible to secure matching federal grants in the amount of seventeen million nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$17,950,000) over two years (a 5:1 ratio of federal to state funds).

The remaining bond proceeds of four million three hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars (\$4,335,000) would go into an existing state revolving loan fund administered by the Maine Bond Bank and would be distributed by the Department of Environmental Protection in the form of loans to municipalities to construct and upgrade wastewater treatment facilities. This funding would make the State eligible to secure matching federal grants in the amount of twenty-one million six hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$21,675,000) over two years (a 5:1 ratio of federal to state funds).

If approved, the authorization of these bonds would take effect 30 days after the Governor's proclamation of the vote.

**A "YES" vote favors the issuance of up to seven million nine hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$7,925,000) in general obligation bonds for the purposes described above.**

**A "NO" vote opposes the bond issue in its entirety.**



## Question 1 - Citizen Initiative

### ***Do you want to allow the State of Maine to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples?***

This citizen-initiated legislation would remove the existing prohibition on same-sex marriage in Maine law and allow the state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The legislation also provides that the marriage of a same-sex couple that is licensed and certified under the laws of another state would be recognized as valid for all purposes under the laws of this state.

No member of the clergy is required under this legislation to perform any marriage in violation of his or her religious beliefs, and no place of worship is required to host a marriage in violation of the beliefs of that religious organization. The legislation also expressly provides that the refusal to perform or to host a marriage shall not be the basis upon which to file a lawsuit against, or to find liable, a member of the clergy or place of worship for refusing to perform or to host a marriage.

If approved, this citizen initiated legislation would take effect 30 days after the Governor proclaims the official results of the election.

**A “YES” vote is to enact the initiated legislation.**

**A “NO” vote opposes the initiated legislation.**

## Question 2 - Bond Issue

### ***Do you favor an \$11,300,000 bond issue to provide funds for capital to build a diagnostic facility for the University of Maine System; for capital improvements and equipment, including machine tool technology, for the Maine Community College System; and for capital improvements and equipment at the Maine Maritime Academy?***

This Act would authorize the State to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed 11.3 million dollars (\$11,300,000) for the projects at the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, and the Maine Maritime Academy, as described below. The bonds would run for a period not longer than 10 years from the date of issue and would be backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

The University of Maine System would receive 7.8 million dollars (\$7,800,000) of the bond proceeds to develop a new, freestanding biosafety level 3 laboratory facility that would include a plant and animal diagnostic laboratory and an insect identification facility to support research in the identification, monitoring and treatment of plant and animal diseases, as well as identification of insect pests and invasive species. The facility would be designed for a level of biosecurity to prevent the spread of diseases and provide for secure disposal of infectious wastes.

The Maine Community College System would receive three million dollars (\$3,000,000) of the bond proceeds to expand necessary capital infrastructure improvements and for equipment, with at least one million dollars of that amount to be used for machine tool technology.

The remaining five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in bond proceeds would be used by the Maine Maritime Academy for equipment and to expand necessary infrastructure capital improvements.

If approved, the authorization of these bonds would take effect 30 days after the Governor’s proclamation of the vote.

**A “YES” vote favors the issuance of up to 11.3 million dollars (\$11,300,000) in general obligation bonds for the purposes described above.**

**A “NO” vote opposes the bond issue in its entirety.**

## Question 3 - Bond Issue

### ***Do you favor a \$5,000,000 bond issue to purchase land and conservation easements statewide from willing sellers for public land and water access, conservation, wildlife or fish habitat and outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing and deer wintering areas, and to preserve working farmland and working waterfronts to be matched by at least \$5,000,000 in private and public contributions?***

This Act would authorize the State to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to raise funds for the acquisition of land and interests in land for conservation, water access, wildlife habitat (including deer wintering areas) or fish habitat, outdoor recreation (including hunting and fishing), and preservation of farmland and working waterfronts, subject to a number of conditions and requirements. The bonds would run for a period not longer than 10 years from the date of issue and would be backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

Proceeds of the sale of the bonds would be expended under the direction and supervision of the Department of Conservation, which has now been merged into the new Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. See Public Laws of 2011, chapter 657, section W-1 (effective Aug. 30, 2012). The funds would be expended in accordance with the provisions of the Land for Maine’s Future statute, Title 5 chapter 353. The bond funds would be matched by five million dollars (\$5,000,000) of funds from other public or private sources.

The Act specifies that projects that conserve and protect deer wintering areas are to be given priority in the scoring of applications submitted to the Land for Maine’s Future Board. It also directs the Department of Conservation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to be proactive in pursuing conservation of priority deer wintering areas – defined as areas containing at least 500 acres of land (including the acreage of any contiguous land that is already conserved) that have been used by deer at some point since 1950 and are capable of sheltering deer as of the effective date of this Act or within 20 years. Land and easements purchased by the State for wildlife or fish habitat protection must be managed using protocols provided by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Payment of bond proceeds may be made directly to “cooperating entities” to acquire land or interests in land of local or regional significance. In awarding funds for such projects, the Land for Maine’s Future Board is required to give preference to acquisitions that achieve benefits for multiple towns and address regional conservation needs including public recreational access, wildlife, open space and farmland. “Cooperating

entities” are defined in statute (Title 5, section 6201, subsection 2) to include local governments, municipal conservation commissions, federal agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other entities designated by the Land for Maine’s Future Board as able to assist the State in the acquisition or management of conservation lands.

Bond funds expended for conservation, recreation, farmland and public access to water must be matched with an equivalent amount of funding in public and private contributions. Seventy percent (70%) of the match for each project must be in the form of cash or other tangible assets, which may include the value of any land or other real property interests being acquired by or contributed to cooperating entities. The remaining 30% of the match may be in the form of in-kind contributions of goods or services related to the project, made by or to cooperating entities.

Any grants awarded by the Land for Maine’s Future Board with these bond proceeds for working waterfront projects must be made in accordance with the terms of the Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program established by the Public Laws of 2005, chapter 462, part B. This means each grant must be matched, dollar for dollar, by the organizations or local governments receiving the award and must be made subject to a condition that the property not be used, altered or developed in a manner that precludes its use by commercial fisheries businesses. The state must retain a permanent right of first refusal on any waterfront property that is acquired with bond proceeds, or is protected by an easement acquired with bond proceeds.

With the exception of working waterfront projects and farmland protection projects, hunting, fishing, trapping and public access may not be prohibited on lands acquired with these bond proceeds, except to the extent of applicable federal, state or local laws and regulations.

If approved, the bond authorization would take effect 30 days after the Governor’s proclamation of the vote.

**A “YES” vote favors the issuance of up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in general obligation bonds for the above activities.**

**A “NO” vote opposes the bond issue in its entirety.**

## Question 4 - Bond Issue

### ***Do you favor a \$51,500,000 bond issue for improvements to highways and bridges, local roads, airports and port facilities, as well as for funds for rail access, transit buses and the LifeFlight Foundation, which will make the State eligible for at least \$105,600,000 in federal and other matching funds?***

This Act would authorize the State to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed fifty-one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$51,500,000), to raise funds for a variety of projects as described below. The bonds would run for a period not longer than 10 years from the date of issue and would be backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

Proceeds from the sale of these bonds would be administered by the Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

**Highways and bridges** – Forty-one million dollars (\$41,000,000) would be expended to repair and reconstruct highways and bridges deemed vital to expansion of business interests and essential to public safety. It is anticipated that this would make the State eligible for at least seventy-two million dollars (\$72,000,000) in federal matching funds. The Act requires the Department of Transportation to consult with the business and economic development sector in order to determine projects of the highest priority to that sector. In addition, a stakeholder group of municipal officials, highway safety officials and members of the general public must be formed to develop a priority list of highway and bridge projects to address the safety of the general public. A recent amendment to existing law (Title 23, section 73, subsection 7, as enacted by Public Laws of 2011, chapter 610, section B-2, effective Aug. 30, 2012) also provides a system by which the Department is required to establish priorities, customer service levels and goals for capital improvements to the State’s public highways.

**Medical helicopter service** – Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) would be provided to the LifeFlight Foundation to install a network of automated weather observation stations as well as to construct helicopter landing pads located in remote areas and in rural communities with high levels of usage. These funds would be matched by three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in funding from local governmental sources. LifeFlight provides a medical helicopter service that transports critically ill and injured patients to hospitals statewide.

**Port facilities** – Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) would be spent to dredge the commercial shipping channel in Searsport, which serves the existing port operation at Mack Point. It is expected that this funding would make the state eligible for ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in federal funds through the Army Corps of Engineers.

An additional two million dollars (\$2,000,000) would support the purchase of material handling equipment for use at Mack Point. This funding would be matched by an equivalent amount of investment by private entities.

Another one and a half million dollars (\$1,500,000) in bond proceeds would be used for construction of warehouse facilities at the port of Eastport, which is owned and operated by the Eastport Port Authority.

**Bus service** – One million dollars (\$1,000,000) would be used to help purchase new transit buses operated by governmental entities located across the state. It is expected that these funds would secure approximately \$9,000,000 in federal funding through the Federal Transit Administration.

**Industrial rail service** – One and a half million dollars (\$1,500,000) would support the Industrial Rail Access Program, which is an existing program of the Department that provides 50% matching grants to private businesses for improvements necessary to increase freight transportation by rail. Because these are matching grants, this funding would trigger an additional one and a half million dollars (\$1,500,000) in private investment.

**Aviation facilities** – One million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) would support projects at publicly-owned aviation facilities across the state. This funding is expected to be matched by ten million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$10,800,000) in federal funds administered by