State of Maine Instructions for Voters: Marking a Ranked-choice Voting Contest

- Make only one choice per column
- Do not skip columns
- Rank as many or as few candidates as you would like

How Your Ballot Will Be Counted

- On election night, the local election officials will count the 1st choices on all the ballots and report the results to the Secretary of State
- If no candidate wins a majority of the 1st choice votes, the ballots or memory devices containing the results will be brought to the counting facility in Augusta, to complete the RCV counting process
- Your vote counts for your 1st choice as long as the candidate has not been defeated (because of having the least votes in any round)
- If your 1st choice candidate is defeated, your 2nd choice will be counted, and so on

- Select your 1st choice candidate and fill in the oval next to that candidate’s name in the 1st choice column
- You do not have to rank all the candidates - your ballot will be counted even if you only rank 1 candidate for an office
- Marking all the rankings for the same candidate is counted the same as a single 1st choice vote for this candidate, as in the example above
- If you have a 2nd choice candidate, fill in the oval next to that candidate’s name in the 2nd choice column
- You may rank other candidates in the same manner until you have ranked all the candidates you would like
- If you skip a single ranking, the ranking after the single skipped ranking will be moved up and counted during the RCV counting process
- If you skip more than one candidate for the same ranking choice (in the same column)
- This is called an “over-vote” because 2 candidates have been ranked the same

- If you skip two rankings in a row, rankings after the two skipped rankings will not be counted
- If you skip a 1st choice ranking, your vote will be counted as a blank on Election Night
- The 2nd choice will be moved up and counted as the 1st choice during the RCV counting process