

Upcoming Elections - 2024 Federal/State Election Schedule

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of State – December 6, 2023

March 5	<u>Presidential Primary</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Democratic Party Primary• Republican Party Primary
June 11	<u>State Primary Election</u>
November 5	<u>General (Presidential) Election</u>

Maine Political Parties

Maine currently has four (4) qualified parties: Democratic, Green Independent, Libertarian, and Republican. Qualified parties may participate in primary elections. There are two possible changes to Maine’s qualified parties heading into 2024:

- The Libertarian Party is currently a “qualified” party. They need to maintain 5,000 enrolled voters as of January 2nd, 2024 to remain a “qualified” party.
- The Forward Party, the People’s Party, and the No Labels Party are currently “qualifying” parties. Each of these qualifying parties will need to file a certification by January 2nd, 2024 with the Secretary of State that they have enrolled at least 5,000 voters to become a “qualified” party.

(NOTE: Although some unenrolled candidates choose to designate themselves as “Independent,” there is no “Independent” party in Maine.)

March 5, 2024 - Presidential Primary Election

Description of the Presidential Primary Election

NOTE: This year marks the beginning of Maine’s shift to **Semi-Open Primaries**. If someone is enrolled in a specific party, they may only vote in that party’s primary. If someone is unenrolled (has no party affiliation), then they can vote in any ONE party’s primary of their choice. This applies to the Presidential and State Primaries.

Each qualified party had until October 1, 2023, to file a certification with the Secretary of State to participate in the Presidential Primary. The Democratic Party and the Republican Party filed this certification and will participate in the Presidential Primary election, but also will hold caucuses for conducting other party-building activities. The Green Independent Party and the Libertarian Party chose not to participate in the Presidential Primary election. They will instead hold party caucuses for voting for the Presidential candidate and conduct other party-building activities.

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June 11, 2024 - State Primary Election

Description of the State Primary Election (for offices other than President)

Primary Elections determine each qualified party's nomination of candidates for federal offices (other than President) and qualified State and County offices. Party candidates who are elected at the Primary qualify to appear on the November General Election ballot. The State Primary Elections are also **Semi-Open** (see above).

Offices included in the 2024 Primary Election are United States Senator, Representative to Congress (both districts), all 35 State Senate districts, all 151 State Representative districts, and the following county offices, which vary depending on the county: Judge of Probate, Register of Probate, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Sheriff, District Attorney and County Commissioner.

In order to qualify for the Primary Election ballot, party candidates must gather a specified number of signatures on primary nomination petitions between January 1st, 2024 and March 15th, 2024. The petitions must be certified by the municipal registrar/clerk, after which the party/candidate must submit these petitions to the Secretary of State's Division of Elections by 5:00 pm on March 15th, 2024.

Nonparty candidates who wish to gain direct access to the General Election ballot must gather a specified number of signatures on nonparty nomination petitions between January 1st, 2024 and May 28th, 2024. Candidates need to deliver them to the municipal registrar/clerk for certification by 5:00 pm on May 28th, 2024, after which the candidate must submit these petitions to the Division of Elections by 5:00 pm on June 3, 2024.

November 5, 2024 - General (Presidential) Election

Description of the General Election

The General Election is held nationally on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November. In 2024, Maine voters will select their choice for President/Vice President (this process is called the "popular vote"), and elect one of Maine's two United States Senators, Maine's Representatives to Congress, members of the Maine Legislature, and certain county officers.

Each party's nomination for President/Vice President of the United States, party candidates who are nominated as a result of the June Primary Election, and unenrolled candidates will appear on the General Election ballot.

The actual election of President/Vice President occurs through the Electoral College. The "popular vote" is used to choose Maine's 4 "electors", who convene at what is called the "Electoral College" at the State House in December to cast their "electoral votes."