

Voting Rights

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For Education Only

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Our Mission

Disability Rights Maine advances justice and equality by enforcing rights and expanding opportunities for people with disabilities in Maine.

Who We Are

- Part of a national network of protection and advocacy organizations (P&As)
- Non-profit agency with a volunteer board of directors
 - At least 51% of the board must be people with disabilities
- Maine's only cross-disability advocacy organization
- Operate statewide

Key Priority Areas

- Eliminate abuse, neglect, and exploitation, especially in facilities
- Reduce the use of guardianship
- Improve access to disability-related supports and services, including access to due process
- Increase access to competitive, integrated employment
- Expand access to community living
- Protect access to voting

Our Services

- Information and referral
- Individual advocacy
- Legal representation
- Training
- Assistance with self-advocacy
- Outreach and monitoring

How to Request Assistance

- Call to schedule an intake:
 - 800.452.1948 or
207.766.7111 (VP)
- Submit an [online intake](https://tinyurl.com/bdhzr5fs);
tinyurl.com/bdhzr5fs
- Learn more about what to expect on [DRM's getting started webpage](https://tinyurl.com/4jsh3y7x).
tinyurl.com/4jsh3y7x



What is Voting?

Voting is when we make a choice! You make choices in your life every day.

What are some choices you made today?

What is an Election?

- An election is an official process where we vote for people who represent us in our government.
- Examples include: President, Senator, House of Representatives, Governor, Mayor, School Board

You can Vote in Maine if you...

- Will be 18 years old by Election Day;
- Are a United States Citizen; and
- A resident of the town/city where you will be voting.

Who has voted before?

Disability and Voting Rights

- Having a disability does NOT impact your right to vote.
- You can vote if you have a guardian.
- You have the right to vote privately and independently.
- You can get help while voting, **if you want it.**

Voter Registration Requirements

When you register to vote you must show one or two documents that prove:

- Who you are
- The address where you live

Voter Registration: Documents

Documents you can show include:

- Driver's license or state ID;
- Student ID;
- Passport;
- Military ID;
- Tribal Nations ID;
- Birth Certificate; or
- Any piece of mail with your address.

Voter Registration: Things to Know

- You must update your voter registration every time you move!
- You must register to vote in the City/Town where you live. The local Clerk's Office manages voter registration and elections.
- If you live in Augusta, you must register to vote with the Augusta City Clerk's Office.
- If you were registered to vote in Lewiston, but moved to Auburn, you have to update your voter registration in Auburn.

How to Register to Vote

There are multiple ways to register to vote. Pick the option that is easiest for you!

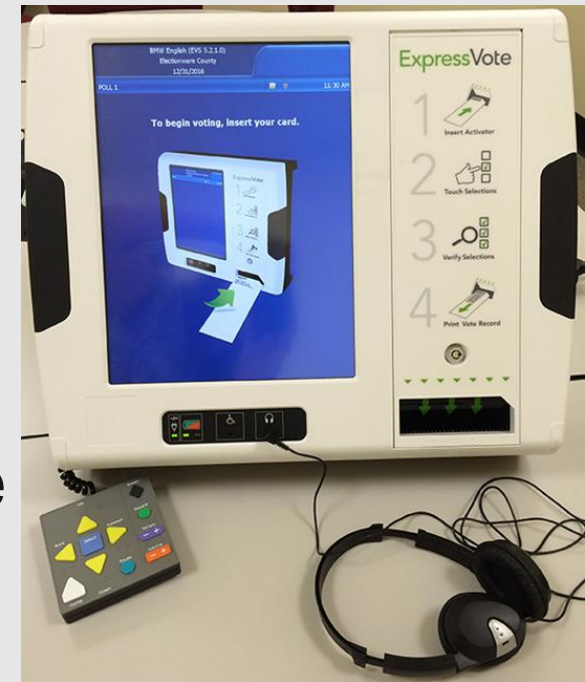
- In person at your [town/city clerk's office](https://tinyurl.com/yr32aukx);
tinyurl.com/yr32aukx
- [Online](https://tinyurl.com/mb2v4997) before October 13th
tinyurl.com/mb2v4997
- [By mail](https://tinyurl.com/4s2h25fj) before October 13th
tinyurl.com/4s2h25fj
- On Election Day at your polling place!

How to Vote

- Mail-in absentee ballot
- Accessible absentee ballot
- Early voting
- In-person on election day!

Accessible Voting System

- The accessible voting system (AVS) is the 5th way you can vote.
- It includes:
 - Headphones to listen to the ballot;
 - Large text; and
 - A keypad with braille.
- You do not need to be disabled to use this machine. And you will not be asked about your disability when you ask to use the machine.



Casting Your Ballot

If you have voted before, what way do you like to vote?

What Protections do People with Disabilities have When Voting?

- **The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (1984)**
 - Requires polling places to be fully accessible to people with disabilities.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)**
 - The ADA includes all aspects of voting- every step of the voting process must be accessible.
- **Help America Vote Act (2002)**
 - Requires a ballot marking device at every polling place in the country.

Assistance with Voting

Friends, family, service providers, and election staff can all help you. Election workers are prepared to assist you in the voting process.

When You Can Get Help

- Reading voter registration paperwork;
- Completing a voter registration card;
- Mailing/returning voter registration paperwork;
- Reading the ballot;
- Marking the ballot; and
- Placing the ballot in the scanner machine at the polling station

Accommodations at Polling Places

Examples of possible accommodations include:

- Asking for a chair to sit in while waiting in line
- Communicating with election workers with paper/pen or by typing on an electronic device
- Asking a poll worker to read/mark your ballot
- Asking for a space in the voting area with lamps or bright lighting to mark your ballot
- Asking for a quiet area in the voting area to complete your ballot
- Using the Accessible Voting System

Considerations When Asking for Help

- They should not:
 - Share their political opinions;
 - Tell you how they have or will vote;
 - Pressure, coerce, or convince you to vote a certain way.
- If someone is marking your ballot for you, they must do it exactly as you say.
 - Purposefully marking the ballot against an individual's instructions is illegal.
 - You have the right to make your own choices!

Strong Opinions

We all have friends or family members who have strong opinions that we don't agree with.

How do you navigate these difficult conversations?

Talk to these Friends about the Election

- You have the right to vote. Use it!
- What would you say to get other people with disabilities to use their power and vote?

REVUP Coalition



The Maine REV UP Coalition works together to build the power of the disability vote. We do this by helping more people with disabilities get involved in voting and making sure elections are accessible to everyone. REV UP is a project of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). There are coalitions in over 20 states across the country.

RevUp Coalition Shared Goals

- Encourage people with disabilities to register to vote and participate in elections.
- Teach the disability community about their voting rights and how to vote.
- Work to make elections more accessible for people with disabilities.
- Make sure policymakers listen to the disability community about voting issues.

Final Points

- Your right to vote is protected under the law.
- Voting must be accessible to you.
- You have the right to vote privately and independently.
- You are entirely in control of how and when you vote.
- You can vote if you have a guardian!

Who do I Call for Help?

- Disability Rights Maine
 - 207.626.2774 or advocate@drme.org
- On Election Day:
 - DRM Election Hotline: 800.452.1948
 - League of Women Voters Election Hotline: 207.558.3333
 - Secretary of State Elections Division: 207.624.7736

Questions?

Resources

[Federal Voting Rights](https://tinyurl.com/ykk4rpwe); tinyurl.com/ykk4rpwe

[State of Maine Voting Rights](https://tinyurl.com/33xfb7rn); tinyurl.com/33xfb7rn

[Maine Online Voter Registration](https://tinyurl.com/5cfnt8uk); tinyurl.com/5cfnt8uk

[Maine Absentee Ballot request service](https://tinyurl.com/6ufhhpfc);

tinyurl.com/6ufhhpfc

[Find your polling place and town office](https://tinyurl.com/bp9wd66t);

tinyurl.com/bp9wd66t

[See your ballot](https://tinyurl.com/3sejfenj); tinyurl.com/3sejfenj

[Track your absentee ballot](https://tinyurl.com/3hu9c8pc); tinyurl.com/3hu9c8pc

Training Survey



[Complete the survey!](https://tinyurl.com/bdev57zy); tinyurl.com/bdev57zy

DRM Contact Info

Disability Rights Maine
160 Capitol Street, Suite 4
Augusta, ME 04330
800.452.1948
www.drme.org

