

## REGISTER TO VOTE

The State of Maine allows residents to register to vote anytime, including the day of election. Residents may register to vote on election day at the polling place at which they vote. To assist us in making the voting process as easy as possible, we ask that you register in advance, if at all possible.

Residents of Madawaska/St. David may register to vote at the Town Clerk's office located on the first floor of the Town Office Building at 328 St. Thomas St., Madawaska. Proof of residency and proof of identity is required, such as a driver's license indicating a physical street address in Madawaska/St. David (not a post office box mailing address). If your driver's license shows a previous address, please bring other documents (checkbook, utility bills, etc.) that show your Madawaska/St. David street address.



### Who can register to vote?

To register to vote you must:

- Be a United States citizen
- Be at least 17 yrs. of age
- Be a Maine resident

### Where do I register to vote?

Voter registration is available for new voters or for existing Madawaska/St. David residents to change their address or name as follows:

- At the Town Office during regular business hours
- At the K of C Hall on Election Day

Maine residents can also register at any Motor Vehicle branch office, in most state & federal social security agencies, or at voter registration drives.

## What identification do I need to bring when registering?

You must show identification and proof of Madawaska/St. David residency. Examples of proper identification include:

- A driver's license
- State identification card
- U.S. Passport

If your Madawaska/St. David address is NOT listed, then you can show a utility bill, a checkbook, or mail that has been delivered to you at your Madawaska/St. David residence.

## Where do I vote?

All Madawaska/St. David voters vote at the K of C Hall located at 172 Fox Street.

## Political Party Enrollment

There are currently three (3) official political parties in the State of Maine – Democrat, Green-Independent, and Republican. Registered voters may enroll in one (1) of these political parties, however, residents who wish to register to vote do not have to select a political party. Voters can be *registered* to vote, but do not have to be *enrolled* in a political party. Only voters enrolled in a political party can vote in any party's primary elections or participate in that party's caucus. If you are enrolled in a political party and wish to change to a different party, you must make that change at least fifteen (15) days before the primary or party caucus to be eligible to vote or participate. Once enrolled in a party, you must stay in that party for at least three (3) months.

The employees in the Madawaska Town Clerk's Office cannot answer questions for citizens regarding the purposes and objectives of these political parties. Madawaska/St. David voters with questions regarding activities of the local political parties are encouraged to contact their local party chairperson or to click on the following links for additional information about each political party:

Maine Democratic Party <http://www.mainedems.org/>

Maine Green-Independent Party <http://www.mainegreens.org/>

Maine Republican Party [www.mainegop.com](http://www.mainegop.com)

## **Voting Location Information**

All voters in the Town of Madawaska/St. David vote at the K of C Hall located at 172 Fox Street. On election day, the polls open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Prior to each election, Early Voting (in-person absentee) is offered at the Town Office, located at 328 St. Thomas Street, Madawaska. Contact the Clerk's office at 207-728-6351 for dates and times.

## **Absentee & Early Voting**

Absentee ballots can be requested:

- By the voter calling 207-728-6351
- In writing by the voter or immediate family member
- In person by visiting the Town Clerk's office

To expedite your application, [consider using this online request service administered by the Secretary of State.](#)

If your work or other commitments make voting on election day difficult, or if you simply want to avoid the lines, vote in advance at your convenience. The dates and times of convenience voting are publicized in advance of each election.

## **Sample Ballots**

### **Can I review the ballots ahead of time?**

The State of Maine provides a tool to look up voter information, including sample ballots:

[http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup\\_voter\\_info](http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup_voter_info)

## Candidate Information

Town Selectpeople and Superintending School Committee members are elected for three (3) year terms. Anyone interested in becoming a candidate must collect signatures from registered voters in Madawaska/St. David, through a petition process.



## Polling Place/Election Day Do's & Don'ts

Candidates may be in attendance at the polling place and may seek to shake hands with or otherwise greet voters coming to the polls.

Candidates may state their name, but they may not state the name of the office sought and may not ask voters to vote for them.

Political advertising is not permitted within 250 feet of the polling place.

No one may park a car with any advertising material on it if he/she is coming to the polls for a reason other than just voting.

Campaign buttons may be worn only by persons who are present in the polling place solely for the purpose of voting. No dimension of such a button may be greater than three (3) inches. Accordingly, a candidate who is at the polls to meet and greet the voters, or to vote and also to meet and greet the voters, may not wear a campaign button.

No cellular phones, beepers, voice or signal pagers are to be used in the polling place. The moderator may exempt election and emergency workers.

One may collect petition signatures on referendum or other petitions at the polling place, and may make advance arrangements for this with the Clerk, or may make arrangements with the moderator on election day. All persons collecting signatures should check-in with the moderator on election day. A voter's signature may be solicited only after the voter has voted.

Signs bearing political messages relating to an election may not be placed within the right-of-way earlier than six (6) weeks before the election to which they relate, and, if so placed, they must be removed by the candidate or political committee no later than one (1) week after the election. 23M.R.S.A § 1913-A(1)(H).

## Placement of Political Signs

To All Candidates for Political Office:

Traffic safety should be of the utmost consideration in placement of political signs or posters. Candidates and/or their campaign workers should take great care not to place signs or posters where the same could create a traffic hazard. For example, signs or posters should not be placed at or near intersections where they could obstruct the view of on-coming traffic to the motorist entering the intersection.

Acceptable display would be those posters or signs affixed to their own stake or post and set in the ground well outside the traveled portion of the road, or, with the owner's consent and permission, attached to a building or dwelling, or displayed on vehicles, or in the windows or establishments, and in other like manner.

Current statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to placement of roadside posters and signs advertising candidacy are covered under the provisions of 23 M.R.S.A., Section 1913-A and M.D.O.T. regulations. Political posters and signs may be erected as follows:

1. On private property **outside** the Right of Way limits of public ways at any time prior to an election, primary or referendum, limited size to a maximum of fifty (50) square feet;
2. **Within** the Right of Way limits of public ways no sooner than six (6) weeks prior to an election, primary, or referendum and must be removed by the candidate or political committee no later than one (1) week following the date of the election, primary, or referendum;
3. **Prohibited practices:** political posters and signs shall not be erected or maintained on any traffic control signs or devices, public utility poles or fixtures, upon any trees or painted or drawn upon rocks or other natural features;
4. No person shall place, maintain or display upon or in view of any highway any unauthorized sign, signal, marking or device which purports to be or is an **imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control device**, such as a stop sign.

The Maine Department of Transportation recognizes that most "violations" are the result of the efforts of ardent workers who do not know the law. It is therefore suggested that this information be passed on to them. **Maine Department of Transportation employees will have**

**instructions to remove all improperly placed or maintained political posters and signs.** MDOT asks candidates for their full cooperation in its endeavor to prevent an unsightly, indiscriminate and uncontrolled display of election campaign posters throughout the State and also to prevent any possible embarrassment to political candidates.

The unauthorized removal or destruction of political signs is a civil violation under Maine law (Title 23, Section 1917-A), and may carry a fine of up to \$250. Specifically, the law states that **“a person who takes, defaces or disturbs a lawfully placed sign bearing political messages relating to a general election, primary election or referendum commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of up to \$250 may be adjudged.”**

The law does not apply to a person authorized by a candidate or political committee to remove signs placed by or at the direction of that candidate or political committee. It also does not apply to the landowner, or agent of the landowner, on whose property a sign has been placed.

A candidate or candidate’s committee would file a complaint with the local police and/or brought to the District Attorney’s office for appropriate action.