

OPEN PRIMARIES

MAINERS FOR OPEN ELECTIONS

Maine Survey Results

Q1 Thinking about government in the state of Maine, do you feel like elected officials in Maine mostly do what's best for the voters, or mostly do what's best for their political parties?

Think elected officials in Maine mostly do what's best for the voters..... 28%
Think they mostly do what's best for their political parties 62%
Not sure 10%

Q2 How successful do you think the leaders of Maine's government have been in bringing people in the state together -very successful, somewhat successful, not too successful, or not successful at all?

Very successful 3%
Somewhat successful 32%
Not too successful 41%
Not successful at all..... 21%
Not sure 2%

Q3 Do you think Maine has elected the political leadership the state needs, or not?

Think Maine has elected the political leadership the state needs 27%
Do not think Maine has elected the political leadership the state needs 59%
Not sure 14%

Q4 Now thinking about the federal government in Washington DC, do you feel that Congressional representatives mostly do what's best for the voters, or mostly do what's best for their political parties?

Think that Congressional representatives in Washington, DC mostly do what's best for the voters 11%
Think they mostly do what's best for their political parties 81%
Not sure 7%

Q5 How would you rate how successful Congressional leaders have been in bringing people in the country together – very successful, somewhat successful, not too successful, or not successful at all?

Very successful 3%
Somewhat successful 12%
Not too successful 31%
Not successful at all..... 51%
Not sure 3%

Q6 How important do you think it is to change our election system to make elected officials more loyal and accountable to the voters – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

Very important 70%
Somewhat important..... 17%
Not too important..... 5%
Not important at all..... 5%
Not sure 2%

Q7 Currently, Maine has closed primaries, meaning that registered Republicans and Democrats are allowed to vote in the primary elections but independent voters are not. How familiar were you with independent voters' inability to participate in Maine's primary elections – very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not familiar at all?

Very familiar..... 46%
Somewhat familiar 22%
Not too familiar 15%
Not familiar at all 15%
Not sure 1%

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Q8 A recent study showed that most state legislative seats are effectively decided in the primary elections, and not in the general election. Maine has one of the lowest voter turnouts in primary elections in the country. How concerned are you that most state legislators are elected when few voters are participating – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all?

<i>Very concerned</i>	52%
<i>Somewhat concerned</i>	33%
<i>Not too concerned</i>	9%
<i>Not concerned at all</i>	5%
<i>Not sure</i>	1%

Q9 37% of Maine voters are registered as independents, meaning not affiliated with a political party. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that independent voters should be able to participate in Maine’s primary elections?

<i>Strongly agree</i>	61%
<i>Somewhat agree</i>	19%
<i>Somewhat disagree</i>	6%
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	12%
<i>Not sure</i>	2%

Q10 There is a bill pending in the legislature to open Maine’s primary elections to independent voters. It would allow independent voters to choose a party ballot in the primary. Knowing what you know right now, would you definitely support this proposal, probably support this proposal, probably not support this proposal, or definitely not support this proposal?

<i>Definitely support</i>	54%
<i>Probably support</i>	24%
<i>Probably not support</i>	10%
<i>Definitely not support</i>	10%
<i>Not sure</i>	3%

Q11 Now I’d like to read you some statements from people who support or oppose the proposal to open Maine’s primary elections to independent voters. Please tell me if you find each argument very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not convincing at all. Here’s the first one: Supporters say that opening primaries is an important next step. Maine has enacted campaign finance reform, and most recently implemented ranked choice voting. The next important reform for our state is allowing all voters to participate in the primaries. If you find the argument that opening Maine’s primaries is an important next step for the state very convincing, press 1. If you find it somewhat convincing, press 2. If not too convincing, press 3. If not convincing at all, press 4. If you’re not sure, press 5.

<i>Very convincing</i>	43%
<i>Somewhat convincing</i>	28%
<i>Not too convincing</i>	13%
<i>Not convincing at all</i>	12%
<i>Not sure</i>	3%

Q12 Here’s the next one: Supporters say that if the political parties want closed primaries that exclude independent voters, the parties should pay for it themselves, not the taxpayers. Primary elections are currently administered in public buildings and run by government workers on publicly owned voting machines. If the taxpayers are paying for the primary election, then it should be open to all voters.

<i>Very convincing</i>	52%
<i>Somewhat convincing</i>	21%
<i>Not too convincing</i>	9%
<i>Not convincing at all</i>	14%
<i>Not sure</i>	4%

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Q13 Here's the next one: Supporters say that 50% of young people aged 18 to 33 identify as independent voters. Shutting out half of the next generation of Americans from the political process is wrong. Our elections must change to meet the evolving needs of the country. That's why we need an open primary.

<i>Very convincing</i>	54%
<i>Somewhat convincing</i>	20%
<i>Not too convincing</i>	9%
<i>Not convincing at all</i>	14%
<i>Not sure</i>	3%

Q14 To recap, this proposal would change the electoral system by replacing closed party primaries with an open primary that allows independents to pick a party ballot. After hearing the arguments from supporters, would you definitely support this proposal, probably support this proposal, probably not support this proposal, or definitely not support this proposal?

<i>Definitely support</i>	49%
<i>Probably support</i>	28%
<i>Probably not support</i>	9%
<i>Definitely not support</i>	11%
<i>Not sure</i>	3%

Q15 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	53%
<i>Man</i>	47%

Q16 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent or a member of another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	32%
<i>Republican</i>	27%
<i>Independent / Other</i>	41%

Q17 If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	90%
<i>Other</i>	10%

Q18 If you are 18-29 years old, press 1. If 30-45, press 2. If 46-65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	12%
<i>30 to 45</i>	22%
<i>46 to 65</i>	42%
<i>Older than 65</i>	24%

Q19 Mode

<i>Phone</i>	80%
<i>Internet</i>	20%