



A fair and transparent vote for Maine

Volunteer leaders of the Maine Republican Party have created a process that is fair and transparent for the selection of a Republican Presidential Nominee at the 2016 Maine Republican Presidential Caucus.

Our goal is to have a process which allows Maine Republican voters to cast ballots while caucusing with their neighbors and friends who care about economic growth, job creation, national security, fiscal responsibility, welfare reform, and common sense values.

CENTRAL LOCATIONS ALL ACROSS MAINE

There are twenty-two regional sites in Maine where Presidential Nominating Caucuses and Municipal Organizational Caucuses will be held on March 5th.

These locations are grouped by County. To find the location where your town or city will caucus, please visit www.MaineGOP.com/caucus.

Under Maine State Law the Maine Republican Party holds town and city caucuses every two years. These local town and city caucuses will take place at the central caucus locations.

Maine Republican voters will have an opportunity to attend their own town or city's local caucus in addition to voting in the Presidential Nominating Caucus. Voters will also have the chance to hear from Presidential candidates or their surrogates and other Republican elected officials. There will also be an opportunity to sign official ballot petitions to help candidates get their names on the ballot for this year's election.

A full agenda for each caucus site is located at www.MaineGOP.com/caucus.

The official town and city caucuses for all 497 Maine municipalities have been called by the Chairman of the Maine Republican Party, Richard A. Bennett. Appropriate documentation has been submitted to each municipality as required by Maine law under Title 21-A M.R.S.A.

ATTENDING THE CAUCUS

Republican voters may participate in the Caucus by appearing on March 5th at the central Caucus location, within their county, designated for their home city or town. Again, locations are available at www.MaineGOP.com/caucus.

On arrival voters will check in with their name and **show a photo ID** confirming their identity. That name will then be checked against the official voter rolls for that region or county to confirm the voter's registration in the Republican Party. Names will be checked in alphabetical order.

If voters are not registered to vote, or are not registered Republicans*, official Municipal Clerks or Registrars of Voters will be on site before the Caucus proceedings to allow people to register. *Note, only registered unenrolleds (independents) will be allowed to re-register as Republicans at the Caucus site. Registered Democrats or other party registrants had a deadline which has now passed to change their registration and join the Republican Party. Available times for this registration process are in the agenda for each caucus site at www.MaineGOP.com/caucus.

Confirmed Republican voters will be given a special PARTICIPATION CARD to be in the building and attend their Municipal Caucus, to visit the various campaign tables, to listen to speakers, and of course to vote in the Presidential Caucus. Each PARTICIPATION CARD will be numbered and uniquely coded to avoid duplication.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS BALLOT & VOTING

Each person attending one of the 22 Maine Caucus sites will have an opportunity, once they have checked in with a valid ID, to vote on the Presidential nomination.

Voting will take place in a secure location within the Caucus site. Voting will be done on a paper ballot.

When a Caucus attendee arrives in the Presidential voting location, one portion of their PARTICIPATION CARD will be removed and submitted to receive a ballot. On the back of the PARTICIPATION CARD voters will be asked to provide their information so they can be kept informed of Republican activities in Maine.

The removed portion of the PARTICIPATION CARD will be deposited and the voter will be given their official ballot with which to vote. Only one ballot will be given for any one intact PARTICIPATION CARD presented. If a PARTICIPATION CARD is lost, a second card will NOT be given.

Voters will not be allowed to remove their ballot from the secure voting area. All ballots will be kept within the secure voting area during the Caucus.

No videotaping is permitted where voters are marking, and casting, their ballots.

As noted on each Caucus site's agenda, voting will occur in a three-hour time frame at each site. Anyone in line to vote at the end of the third hour, when the polls close, is eligible to cast a ballot.

Candidates who chose to participate in the Maine Republican Presidential Caucus notified the Maine Republican Party and submitted the necessary paperwork to have their name placed on the official ballot.

Procedures to have candidate names on the ballot were created in accordance with Maine Republican Party official caucus rules and the rules of the Republican National Committee.

NAMES ON THE BALLOT AS OF THE BALLOT CLOSING DATE ARE:
(in alphabetical order)

BUSH, JEB
CARSON, BEN
CRUZ, TED
FIORINA, CARLY
HUCKABEE, MIKE
KASICH, JOHN
PAUL, RAND
RUBIO, MARCO
TRUMP, DONALD

*Those candidates who qualified for the ballot but then later suspended or ended their campaigns still have their names on the ballot unless they requested to be removed. Please note, to date, Governor Christie, Senator Graham and Senator Santorum have all requested their names be removed from the Maine Ballot. Ms. Fiorina, Governor Huckabee and Senator Paul have specifically requested that their names remain on the ballot.

Those wishing to vote immediately and leave may do so. Voters are encouraged to stay and participate in their special Municipal Caucus and to listen to the candidate speeches and meet local officials.

RULES ON CONDUCT AT CAUCUS SITES

In an effort to ensure that all attending the caucuses are afforded the opportunity to participate in the events of the day, the following Rules will apply to all Presidential campaigns:

- No campaign signs will be permitted within 250 feet of the entrance to the building. A note to all candidates that Maine law does not permit political signs in public ways before May 6th so those signs are not permitted on public roadways. Signs on private property are permitted at any time, unless prohibited by local town or city ordinances.
- Two representatives from each Presidential Campaign will be permitted at the entrance to each of the sites for the purpose of greeting the attendees.

Official Presidential candidates and their pre-designated and pre-qualified surrogates will be given five minutes for speeches. The speaking order will be determined by a drawing to be held at the Maine Republican Party headquarters which is open to observation by the candidate's campaigns. Individual drawings will be done for each of the sites.

In all instances, official Presidential candidates appearing in person shall speak before surrogates.

Each candidate will be given a table on which to display campaign literature. Only those authorized by the campaign, in advance and registered with the Maine Republican Party, shall be permitted to handle this task.

Each candidate is entitled to have one person observe the voting throughout the time the polls are open and the counting process. This person must remain outside the voting area and not campaign or interfere in any way with those voting or on their way to vote.

No person will be allowed to disrupt or interfere with the conduct of the Caucus. **Caucus Wardens and Deputy Wardens shall have the authority to remove people from the premises who seek to purposefully disrupt the proceedings.**

Questions regarding any conduct at Caucus sites shall be directed to the Caucus Warden or Deputy Warden at that location.

SPECIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCESS

Only Active Duty Military, Dependents of Active Duty Military, members of the Maine National Guard, and Veterans disabled in the line of duty and unable to get to the voting site may request an absentee ballot by sending an email to vetsvote@mainegop.com, including their name as it appears on the voter list and their legal residence. Active Duty Military, Dependents and National Guard must include a copy of their ID. The name and address will be confirmed against the Voter List as supplied by the Secretary of State.

An Affidavit, Privacy Sheet and Ballot will be emailed to each person. Once the absentee ballot is cast, all three pages must be returned via email to the same address. When received, the Affidavit will be separated from the Privacy Sheet and Ballot. The Privacy Sheet and Ballot will be folded, placed in an envelope and sealed. A label will be placed over the flap of the envelope and filled out by official Caucus staff with the name of the voter, County of residence,

and certification that the person is listed on the voter list. The Affidavit will be stapled to the envelope.

Absentee ballots may be requested at any time. The deadline for receiving absentee ballots is 5:00 PM EST on March 5th.

On March 5th, Absentee Ballots will be counted at the special Caucus Headquarters located at the Ramada Inn, 490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston, Maine. Absentee Ballots may be opened and placed in ballot boxes according to region beginning at 3:00 PM. Ballots will not be counted until after the 5:00 PM deadline. Teams of two will count each bundle of ballots based on the region. The totals will be written on a tally sheet, signed by each Deputy Clerk and turned in to the Caucus Clerk, who will record them on a spreadsheet. The totals from this process will be added into the appropriate numbers from each caucus site, giving us official totals for the day.

CHALLENGED BALLOTS AND VOTING DISPUTES

Anyone who does not have appropriate identification needed to participate will be entitled to cast a "Challenged Ballot" in the Presidential Caucus. The Warden, or Deputy Warden, is responsible for filling out the Challenge Certificate.

The Certificate must be signed by the Warden or Deputy Warden and the voter. This Certificate will be placed in a sealed envelope. The Warden or Deputy Warden will assign a unique identifying number, known only to the Warden or Deputy Warden and the voter. This unique identifying number will be written in the upper right-hand corner of the ballot and on the outside of the envelope. All Challenge Envelopes will be placed in a sealed envelope when the polls close.

The Warden and Deputy Warden will keep a list of the names of the challenged voters, which will be included with the other materials when returned to Caucus Headquarters. The voter then casts the ballot and places it in the ballot box. All challenged ballots are included in the totals.

Should any disputes occur, a panel consisting of the Chairman of the Maine Republican Party, Vice Chair of the Maine Republican Party, Secretary of the Maine Republican Party, Chief Caucus Warden, and Executive Director of the Maine Republican Party shall be charged with resolving any disputes regarding challenged ballots.

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION CAUCUS RESULTS

At the close of Presidential voting, noted by the time on the agenda for the site at www.MaineGOP.com/caucus, the designated Presidential voting area for the site will be closed.

After the close of Presidential voting, the designated Caucus Clerk for the site will collect the voter lists used to check in voters and other official materials and place them into a secure box to be returned to Caucus Headquarters.

Deputy Clerks, overseen by the Caucus Warden and Deputy Warden, for that site will then begin the process of counting the ballots cast at that location.

- Ballots will first be separated by candidate into piles and groupings for votes cast in favor of that candidate.
- Ballots will then be grouped into bundles of 50 by candidate. Those bundles of ballots will be counted by two separate Deputy Clerks. They will each then independently sign off on a tally sheet for each bundle.
- Bundles and counts will then be presented to the Caucus Clerk and their totals placed on an official Caucus site spreadsheet.
- Once all counting is done and totals are complete, an **unofficial** result will be determined for that caucus site.

As noted, all official Presidential candidates may pre-designate observers to watch the counting of all ballots. The Caucus site's Warden and Deputy Warden may choose to make the viewing of ballot counting available to the public if space is available. The rules of conduct at the Caucus site will apply: no one shall disrupt or attempt to interfere with the counting of ballots.

Any questions or concerns over the counting of ballots shall be directed to the Warden or Deputy Warden at the Caucus site.

The Caucus site's Warden, Deputy Warden, and Caucus Clerk will each independently report the unofficial result to Caucus Headquarters. Those reports will be checked to ensure a match by Caucus Headquarters.

Once this process is entirely complete, a sheet noting the **unofficial results** from that location will be written and posted on the wall within the Caucus site.

NOTE: These will be unofficial results. Media and participants should note the results at each location are not indicative of the results which may be obtained from another site location.

All results from each of the sites shall be considered unofficial until the Official results and the Delegate Allocation are announced by the Chairman of the Maine Republican Party, or his designee, during the special evening Caucus event at Caucus Headquarters within the Ramada Inn, 490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston, Maine.

Only the results announced at the special Maine Republican Presidential Caucus evening event at Caucus Headquarters will be official.

The special evening Caucus event is open to the public. Tickets and information on the special event can be obtained here: <http://www.mainegop.com/youre-invited-attend-the-maine-gop-caucus-after-party/>

All Caucus site materials, including ballots, will be securely transported back to Caucus Headquarters following the end of each site's caucus.

NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATE ALLOCATION

The Maine Republican Presidential Caucus is part of the nationwide process of selecting Delegates to attend the Republican National Convention where a final, official vote will take place for the Republican Nominee for President to be chosen.

Under the national rules, Maine has 23 votes at the National Convention.

Under the official Caucus resolutions passed by the Maine Republican Party State Committee, Delegate allocation for the first vote for President at the Republican National Convention will be as follows:

- If one candidate receives 50% +1 of the vote in the Maine Republican Presidential Caucus, that candidate will receive the votes of all 23 Maine delegates in the first ballot at the National Convention.
- If no candidate receives 50% +1 vote in the Maine Republican Presidential Caucus, each candidate who receives at least 10% of the statewide vote will receive a proportional allocation of Maine's 23 Delegates for the vote at the National Convention.

The Delegate Allocation will be announced publicly as part of the results at the official Caucus event on the evening of March 5th at the Ramada Inn, 490 Pleasant Street, in Lewiston.

AS MAINE GOES, SO GOES THE NATION

The phrase, "as Maine goes, so goes the nation," is part of the historical fabric of Presidential election history in our nation.

Maine's Republican Presidential Caucus on March 5th will add a new chapter to the history of Presidential elections and give Maine people a voice in who will be the next President of the United States.