

2024 Maine GOP Draft Platform

Two hundred years ago, the people of Maine adopted a Constitution “to establish justice, ensure tranquility, provide for our mutual defense, promote our common welfare, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of liberty.” Thirty-four years later, the Maine Republican Party was formed in order to protect these principles. It remains committed to preserving the blessings of liberty today, that our great State may fulfill its potential as a place of abundant opportunity and thriving communities. We therefore adopt this platform, which we dedicate to our military veterans, active and reserve service members, first responders, fire fighters, and law enforcement, to whom we are forever grateful.

I. This platform embraces principles and identifies actions to implement them.

1. We support and defend the Constitutions of the United States and of the State of Maine; they are the framework to which all legislation must adhere.
2. We support policies designed to help Maine workers, families, and businesses thrive by lowering tax burdens, reducing government regulations and mandates, promoting a vibrant private sector, and encouraging individual initiative.

In order to define the specific policies encompassed by said constitutional principles, be it resolved:

II. The government of Maine exists to preserve and protect certain natural, inherent, and inalienable rights endowed by our Creator for the benefit, protection, and security of all citizens and future generations. To maintain these rights, we therefore pledge to:

1. Defend every citizen’s right, as defined by the Maine and United States Constitutions, to freely exercise their religious beliefs, freely speak and associate, and to petition their government, without governmental infringement;
2. Defend the individual’s right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Maine and United States Constitutions; and
3. Defend the powers reserved to the State of Maine by the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

III. Because capitalism and the free market system encourage individual initiative and a prosperous economy, thereby benefiting Maine workers and families, we support:

1. Promoting a welcoming business climate;
2. Enacting “Right to Work” laws to better stimulate economic growth;
3. Protecting ownership of private property, which is fundamental to liberty and a strong economy;
4. Implementing a comprehensive and thoughtful energy policy that minimizes adverse environmental and fiscal impacts, including the elimination of the 100 MW cap on hydropower;

5. Reducing the tax burden on Maine's people;
6. Protecting the interests of American workers by requiring that employers in the State of Maine verify the identity of prospective employees and their eligibility to work in the United States;
7. Reducing burdensome occupational licensing requirements and regulations that place undue burdens on private enterprise;
8. Adopting comprehensive welfare reform, offering a pathway to self-sufficiency while maintaining the safety net for Maine's most vulnerable; and
9. Preventing discrimination against any individual, association, or business through the use of social credit or environmental, social, and governance score, or the like.

IV. The physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and sexual health of our pre-teen, teenage, and young adult children are paramount to societal well-being; therefore, we support and encourage policies which:

1. Prohibit public school curriculum in pre-K through 12 from promoting the subject matter of hormone replacement therapy or surgical gender reassignment practices;
2. Prohibit the teaching or promotion of biological genders other than those of male and female, while accepting those who exhibit physical intersex traits from birth;
3. Prohibit school district personnel from withholding, or encouraging a student to withhold, from a parent or legal guardian, any information regarding school-provided or sanctioned healthcare services, identity changes, or group activities involving a student; and
4. Require school districts to make their curricula easily accessible to the public and to allow parents or guardians to opt their children out of any content or activity that violates their ethical or religious beliefs.

V. The most effective government is closest to the people and the least intrusive, therefore:

1. We oppose the federalization of Maine lands;
2. Municipal Home Rule is to be honored and respected;
3. We support local food rights; and
4. We support limiting executive orders to the administration of executive functions and requiring legislative approval for extension of such orders.

VI. Education is the cornerstone to building a prosperous future, therefore:

1. We support the restoration of local control in education as specified in the Maine Constitution;

2. Parents have the right and responsibility to direct their children's education;
3. The best academic opportunities are made possible through school choice;
4. Maine's colleges and universities should be marketplaces of ideas where any individual's political and religious beliefs may be expressed, and that Constitutional right shall be respected; and
5. Participation on athletic teams of publicly-funded schools designated for one biological sex should be limited to students of that biological sex.

VII. Because the family is the foundation and strength of a stable society, the government must not interfere, but rather support and protect the integrity and rights of the family; therefore, we:

1. Recognize the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman;
2. Support the family by encouraging the birth and adoption of children, their care and support;
3. Believe parents or legal guardians – not government- are most capable and responsible to make decisions in the best interest of their minor children, including medical, disciplinary, and educational decisions;
4. Believe in the sanctity of human life – from conception to natural death;
5. Oppose the use of taxpayer funds for abortions or activities that run counter to the sanctity of human life; and
6. Support faith-based family resources, including adoption and unexpected pregnancy services.

VIII. Fiscal restraint and accountability for all levels of government is paramount and should be promoted by:

1. Working to reduce spending at all levels of government in order to ensure fiscal stability and to minimize debt;
2. Encouraging sound fiscal management to reduce the Maine tax burden, including regulatory fees; and
3. Instituting zero based budgeting in all programs, and requiring the government and all agencies to adhere to the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

IX. The State of Maine should protect the integrity of the election process by:

1. Requiring an individual to prove that he or she is a United States citizen when registering to vote, and to produce a State of Maine photo identification proving legal residency in their voting district when voting;
2. Repealing taxpayer funding for political campaigns;

3. Repealing ranked choice voting;
4. Rejecting efforts to abolish or undermine the Electoral College; and
5. Requiring regular maintenance and updating of voter rolls to be done securely in-house, i.e., not through the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

X. Maine Republicans promote the following:

1. Ensuring that environmental regulations are based upon sound science and recognize the value of Maine's heritage, especially in farming, fishing, forestry, and recreation;
2. Ensuring that all non-elected state authorities and agencies are subordinate and accountable to the state legislature;
3. Securing all U.S. borders;
4. Supporting the enforcement of all federal immigration laws by state and local government entities and expediting the expulsion of illegal aliens;
5. Rejecting blanket amnesty for illegal aliens;
6. Supporting English as the official language of the State of Maine and the United States;
7. Opposing any policy that promotes agendas which undermine individual accountability in favor of a focus on any class, gender, or race (e.g., Critical Race Theory);
8. Addressing Maine's drug crisis through a combination of law enforcement efforts and partnerships with private sector organizations to address addiction and promote effective rehabilitation for the individual; and
9. Ensuring that the State's child welfare services protect vulnerable Maine children in their care, including cooperating with faith-based foster care organizations, while promoting family preservation when appropriate.

Because the blessings of liberty can only be preserved by an eternally vigilant people, it is incumbent upon all of us to remain involved in the American experience of self-governance. Those of us who have united behind the Republican banner invite you to join us in this task and support Republican candidates.

May God Bless America and may God Bless the Great State of Maine.