

Ranked Choice Voting Information Sheet

State of Maine Primary Election Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions about marking the ballots.....

- 1) Question: Why does the ballot have some races by Ranked Choice Voting and other races by the traditional voting method of only voting for one candidate?

Answer: In Maine, Ranked Choice Voting will be used in the November 2020 state election and only applies to certain offices and only if there are three or more candidates running. For Lewiston ballots, this applies to the races for President, U.S. Senate and U.S. Congress. These are located on the back side of the ballot.

- 2) Question: Do I need to rank and vote for every candidate in the race?

Answer: No. You do not have to rank all of the candidates if you don't want to. Perhaps you like some of the candidates, but have no interest in seeing the others elected to that office. You have the option of ranking as many, or as few, candidates as you would like. Simply rank only those candidates you support.

- 3) Question: If I only want to rank and vote for one candidate, will my vote still count?

Answer: Yes it will. Your ballot will be counted even if you only vote for one candidate. If you only have one candidate that you want, mark only that candidate as your first choice, and it will be counted on Election Night.

- 4) Question: What if I like several candidates and want to vote for several of them?

Answer: Then you can rank them in the order of your preference - your 1st choice, your 2nd choice, your 3rd choice, and so on.

- 5) Question: Can I vote for the same candidate for my 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, etc.?

Answer: No. If you vote for the same candidate in every ranking, it will only count as one vote. A candidate cannot receive more than one vote. If you vote for your favorite candidate in every ranking, it will be counted once and not multiple times.

- 6) Question: Can I skip rankings? What if I ranked my 1st choice, then my 4th choice, but did not select a 2nd or 3rd choice?

Answer: If you skip only one ranking, then the next ranking is counted on your ballot. If you skip 2 consecutive rankings, the ballot is considered "exhausted" and the rest of your rankings are no longer counted.