

CHOOSING A POLITICAL PARTY WHEN REGISTERING TO VOTE

Voters have the choice of enrolling in a political party when registering to vote.

Current parties in the State of Maine are:

Democratic

Republican

Green Independent (The Green Party)

Libertarian (In the process, as of December 2014, of enrolling at least 5,000 voters in order to become a qualified political party).

If you do not want to enroll in a political party, you will check the box **Unenrolled** on the voter card.

Please do not confuse the Green Independent party with the status of “Independent”. If you choose to be Independent and not enroll in a political party, your choice will be “Unenrolled” on the voter card. This means you enrolled as a voter, but remain unenrolled in a political party, making you an independent voter

If you choose Unenrolled (independent), you do not have the right to vote in the Primary Election in June.** The Primary Election which is held each even numbered year in June, is designed for voters in a political party to nominate a candidate in their party to advance to the November ballot. The voter receives a ballot for their party only, so if your status is Unenrolled (independent), there is no ballot, because “Independent” is not a party.

*** Note: Voters who have chosen to be Unenrolled (independent) may choose to enroll in a political party at any time by filing an application with the Registrar of Voters, and vote in the June Primary Election. However, the law states that you must remain in that political party for 3 months or more once you enroll.*

Changing Parties: Once you enroll in a political party, you must remain in that party for 3 months or more. After the 3 month period has passed, you may change parties, except that you may not change parties for the 15 day period just prior to the June Primary Election date.