

State of Maine Treasurer's Statement

The State of Maine borrows money by issuing bonds. General Obligation bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the State and must be submitted statewide to the voters for approval.

Once approved, the Treasurer issues bonds as needed to fund the approved bond projects and uses a rapid 10-year repayment of principal strategy to retire the debt.

If the bond proposals on the ballot in November 2021 are approved by the voters, general obligation debt service as a percentage of the State's General Fund, Highway Fund and Revenue Sharing appropriations is expected to be 2.45% in FY22 and 2.56% in FY23.

The following is a summary of general obligation bond debt of the State of Maine as of **October 30, 2021**.

Bonds Outstanding (Issued and Maturing through 2031):

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
Highway Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
General Fund	589,665,000	117,986,658	707,651,658
Total	\$ 589,665,000	\$ 117,986,658	\$ 707,651,658

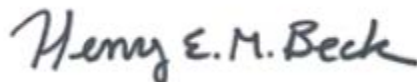
Unissued Bonds Authorized by Voters: \$ 67,130,000

Unissued Bonds Authorized by the Constitution: \$ 99,000,000

Total Authorized but Unissued Bonds: \$ 166,130,000

The total amount that must be paid in the present fiscal year for bonded debt already outstanding (for FY2022): \$ 110,528,908

If the bonds submitted here are approved by voters and issued for the full statutory period authorized, an estimate of the total interest and principal that may reasonably be expected to be paid is **\$127,500,000.00**, representing **\$100,000,000.00** in principal and **\$27,500,000.00** in interest.



Henry E.M. Beck, Esq.
Treasurer of State

Notice Regarding the Statement of the Maine State Treasurer

The Maine State Treasurer has prepared a statement, providing certain information as required by law (Title 5 section 152) relating to the bond issue on the November 2, 2021 ballot.

The Statement of the Maine State Treasurer is posted on the Secretary of State's website:
<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/index.html>

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Department of the Secretary of State

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

Julie L. Flynn
Deputy Secretary of State

Guidance for Conducting Absentee Voting at Licensed Facilities for the November 2, 2021 Elections

Revised by the Secretary of State, September, 2021

Purpose of Guidance: Title 21-A, section 753-B(5), requires that the municipal clerks make personal visits to licensed facilities to facilitate absentee voting for the residents. Although this provision was suspended by Executive Order for the November 2020 election, that Executive Order expired with the end of the state of emergency in June 2021. As a result, the visitation requirement is in effect for the November 2, 2021 elections. The purpose of this guidance is to recommend procedures for complying with the law in a safe manner, with as little face-to-face interaction as possible, so as to protect the health and safety of residents and staff of certain licensed facilities and of municipal clerks and their staffs.

Covered facilities under Title 21-A: Nursing Homes, Level IV Residential Care Facilities (with more than 6 beds) and Assisted Living Facilities (with more than 6 beds)

Overview of recommended procedures: In order to minimize the amount of in-person absentee voting in the presence of the municipal clerk at certain licensed facilities, the municipal clerk should facilitate and encourage absentee voting by means not requiring the physical presence of the clerk. Clerks should provide each covered facility with absentee ballot application forms and facilitate the retrieval of completed forms. Clerks should deliver requested absentee ballots in sealed delivery envelopes to each facility and retrieve the sealed return envelopes containing voted absentee ballots from each facility prior to election day. These procedures are intended to facilitate absentee voting by facility residents but still preserve the chain of custody of the ballots and security of the process.

Clerks are encouraged to work with staff and management of certain licensed facilities to schedule in-person absentee voting in the presence of the clerk for any voters for whom the prior procedures are not practicable and to be outdoors to the extent possible. Clerks are encouraged to facilitate these voting procedures as early as possible in case rescheduling is necessary. Clerks entering facilities should be vaccinated against COVID-19 and should not enter any facility if they are experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms. Clerks should wear masks while in facilities and should encourage residents and staff to wear masks while in the voting area. Only the minimum necessary number of elections officials should enter each facility.

Absentee Voting Procedures:

1. The Municipal Clerk **should provide a copy of this guidance document and the Application for Absentee Ballot forms** to each facility in their town with instructions for having the resident voters complete and sign the applications, as follows:
 - a. provide applications as soon as possible after receiving this guidance
 - b. can provide a copy or the link to a copy of the application via email or by mailing or delivering printed copies to the facility directly

2. The facility staff should distribute the applications to the residents, and collect them for return to the municipality – the facility and the municipality should agree on how the applications should be returned – preferably in one batch, by one of the following methods:
 - a. scanning and emailing them to the town,
 - b. faxing them to the town,
 - c. hand-delivering them to the town,
 - d. having the clerk pick them up from the facility, or
 - e. mailing them to the town.

Facility staff should also instruct residents that they may designate a specific member of facility staff on their application to return their absentee ballot to the clerk. Alternatively, the resident may designate another person on the application or choose to return the ballot by mail or in person.

NOTE: The completed applications should be returned to the town as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for the municipality to assemble and deliver the ballot materials to the facility.

3. The Municipal Clerk or designee enters the requests into the Central Voter Registration (CVR) absentee tracking system and prepares delivery and return envelopes labeled for each voter, along with voting instructions. Staff places the correct ballot(s) into each delivery envelope and seals them. Clerk delivers the ballots to the facility as soon as possible after they are prepared.

NOTE: If the Municipal Clerk receives an application from a voter who is not registered to vote in the municipality, the Clerk provides the facility with a Maine Voter Registration Application (either a printed form or the PDF version posted on the Secretary of State’s website) with instructions for the voter to complete and return the application so that the ballot can be issued.

4. The facility staff should arrange a time with each resident voter for the voter to mark their ballot. Facility staff should arrange for the appropriate witnesses to be present for the marking of the ballot, as described below.
5. At the scheduled time, the voter opens the delivery envelope and removes the ballot(s), instructions, and return envelope.
 - a. If the voter is able to read and/or mark the ballot(s) without assistance, the voter should show the unmarked ballot to two witnesses (or a single witness if the witness is a notary public), who should confirm that the ballot is unmarked. The voter marks the choices on the ballot using a black or blue ballpoint pen to fill in each oval. The voter must be given the opportunity to mark the ballot in a manner that makes it impossible for the witnesses or any other person present to see how the resident voted.
 - b. If the voter needs assistance in reading and/or marking the ballot, the facility staff arranges a time when that can occur with an assistant and another staff person to witness. In this case, only one witness, in addition to the aide, is required to confirm that the ballot is unmarked. The ballot must be marked by the voter or the aide so that it is impossible for anyone else present to see how the resident voted.

NOTE: Assistance is limited to the assistant reading the ballot (including the voting instructions) to the voter and/or marking the ballot as directed by the voter. No one may influence the voter’s choices on what to mark. The role of the witness is to ensure the ballot is unmarked before the voting process starts and to observe the marking process to be sure the voter is not influenced.

6. The voter (or assistant if needed) folds the marked ballots and puts them into the return envelope and seals the envelope (by wetting the adhesive or taping the envelope shut).
7. The voter signs the envelope flap where indicated (or if the voter is unable to sign, the assistant signs “Jane Doe assistant on behalf of voter John Smith” or “John Smith voter signed by Jane Doe assistant”). The witnesses should observe this process and then complete the witness certification. If assistance was provided for signing the envelope or reading and/or marking the ballot according to the voter’s wishes, then the assistant must complete and sign the aide certificate in the presence of a witness who completes and signs the witness certificate – both of which are printed on the back of the envelope.
8. When all voters have completed the voting process, the facility staff member designated to collect ballots should collect the ballots from all residents who designated that staff person on their absentee ballot application and return them to the municipality (or, the facility director should contact the Municipal Clerk who will retrieve the ballots from the facility). This should be done at least a week before the election, so there is time to resolve any issues.
9. The Municipal Clerk or designee reviews each envelope and enters the return information into the CVR absentee tracking system as per usual process.

In-Person Absentee Voting in the Presence of the Clerk Procedures:

If all voters in a facility are not able to vote using the non-physical presence approach, then the following procedures would apply:

1. In addition to the procedures above, municipal clerks are required to designate a day in the 30 days before the election on which they will be physically present at each facility to facilitate in-person absentee voting. Clerks should generally follow procedures from 2019 and prior years, as modified below.
2. Clerks should work with management of residential care facilities to schedule in-person absentee voting in the presence of the clerk to be outdoors or in a well-ventilated area to reduce risks to health and safety for all people involved, to the extent practical.
3. Clerks should endeavor to schedule the in-person voting day early in the 30-day period so that voting may be rescheduled in the event that a facility is unable to allow visitors due to COVID-19 cases in the facility.
4. Only the minimum number of officials necessary should be present in the facility.
5. All clerks present at facilities for in-person voting should be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
6. Clerks experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should not enter a facility.
7. Elections officials should wear masks while inside the facility and should encourage residents and staff to wear masks while in the voting area.