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KNOX COUNTY MAINE DEMOCRATS
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Knox County Democratic Committee Monthly Newsletter October 1, 2023 (No. 18)

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Local Legislators to Appear at KCDC October Monthly Meeting

KCDC will host local state legislators for a Legislative Update on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 from **10:00 AM to Noon**. This is a hybrid event both in-person at the Camden Public Library (Picker Room) and online. The legislators will provide an update on their important work in the past session and answer voters' questions. Confirmed legislators so far include Senator Anne "Pinny" Beebe-Center (District 12) and Representatives Victoria Doudera (District 41), Valli Geiger (District 42), and Ann Matlack (District 43)

Admission is free and open to all Knox County residents, but advance registration is required. In-person seating is limited and granted on a first come, first served basis. Register [here](#) or directly from the KCDC website at knoxmainedemocrats.org. Please note that the Legislative Update takes the place of the regular evening KCDC business meeting for October.



**Focus on the November Ballot:
Question 7: Remove Residency Requirement for Initiative
Petition Circulators Amendment**

Proceedings for Circulating Written Petitions for People's Vetoes and Direct Initiatives with Federal Law.

Ballot Question 7: *Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to remove a provision requiring a circulator of a citizen's initiative or people's veto petition to be a resident of Maine and a registered voter in Maine, requirements that have been ruled unconstitutional in federal court?*

This amendment would remove the requirement that a circulator for initiative and referendum petitions be a resident of Maine. The current requirement has been overturned in other states in federal court, and a Yes vote on this question indicates your support for aligning Maine's constitution with federal law, not requiring that petition circulators be Maine residents. A No vote indicates you don't support a constitutional amendment and only want Maine residents to be able to circulate petitions.

The Maine legislature in June approved this constitutional amendment, LD 1477, by a two-thirds majority of each chamber. Per Maine law, constitutional amendments must also be approved by voters.

Background articles:

<https://www.mainepublic.org/politics/2023-09-07/questions-about-novembers-ballot-measures-the-political-pulse-crew-has-some-answers>



Where Do I Find Information on All the Ballot Questions?

Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, has released the [Maine Citizen's Guide to the](#)

learning more about each ballot initiative. Voters can see the legislation behind this year's ballot issues, as well as analysis of the intent and content of each question. Election law also allows for citizen advocacy statements to be published supporting or opposing questions, which provides voters with those viewpoints to consider.

Sources for Information on Ballot Questions:

2023 Maine Citizen's Guide to the Referendum Election - Maine Secretary of State's Office: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/pdf/citizensguide23.pdf>

November 7 Ballot Questions - League of Women Voters: <https://www.lwvme.org/ballotquestions>

Your Vote 2023 - Maine Public: <https://www.mainepublic.org/tags/your-vote-2023>

Information Specific to Ballot Question 3 (Utility Referendum) and the Related Ballot Question 1 (Require Voter Approval of Certain Borrowing)

Pine Tree Power (Proponents): <https://pinetreepower.org/>

Maine Affordable Energy (Opponents): <https://maineaffordableenergy.org/>

Ballot Question 1/Relationship to Question 3: <https://www.lwvme.org/ballotquestions>



Where Do I Find Voting Information?

Online Application for Absentee Ballot: <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>

Don't delay! With absentee voting you can cast a ballot without going to a polling location on Election Day or vote early in locations where it is available. Any registered voter in Maine may cast an absentee ballot. Absentee voting is anonymous and convenient!

[/VoteInMaine](#)

Maine Secretary of State's Office - Elections & Voting: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/index.html>



KCDC Community Picnic Recap

Democrats from numerous towns in Knox County gathered for a casual Fall Picnic on the grounds on the Masonic Center in Rockport. A warm fall day provided the backdrop to food hot off the grill, delicious homemade salads, good conversation with legislators Ann Matlack and Vicki Doudera, and toe-tapping music provided by Sea Strings.

The winning ticket for our raffle of an e-bike was held by Bruce Cobb of Union.

We thank our event sponsors: Bob & Mary Nash, Richard & Nancy Nelson, Todd Kirchgessner & Anne Minnich, and Mary Winchell.

A big thanks to the volunteer team that included griller par excellence Matt Annis, Marcus Mrowka, Nancy Lloyd, Jeff Zurkow and all the Executive Board members.

desserts: Ed Glaser, Linda Souers & Mary Winchell.



Upcoming Events

October 2, 2023 Issue Forum on Ballot Question 3 (Utility Referendum), 5:30-7:00pm via ZOOM. Hosted by League of Women Voters - Downeast. Info & registration [here](#).

October 10, 2023 KCDC October Monthly Meeting - Legislative Update



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