

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 7  
ELIGIBILITY OF VOTERS

Sec.

- 241. General qualifications.
- 242. Residence.
- 243. Right survives change of residence.
- 244. Division of municipality, effect.
- 245. Restrictions.
- 246. Special provisions.

**§ 241. General qualifications**

A person who meets the following requirements may vote in any election in the municipality in which his residence is established.

1. **Citizenship.** He must be a citizen of the United States.
2. **Ability to read.** He must read from the Constitution of the State of Maine in a manner which shows he is neither being prompted nor reciting from memory. He must write his name in English.
  - A. **Exception.** This subsection does not apply to a person who is prevented by physical disability from performing its requirements, but he may be required to supply reasonable proof of his knowledge.
3. **Age.** He must be at least 21 years of age.
4. **Residence.** He must have established a residence in this State for at least 6 months, and in the municipality in which he resides for 3 months next prior to election day.
5. **Registration.** He must be registered to vote in the municipality.
6. **Enrollment.** He must be enrolled in a party in the municipality in order to vote at a caucus, convention or primary election.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 242. Residence**

Voting residence is governed by the following provisions:

**1. Spouse may have separate residence.** A married woman may be deemed to have a residence separate from that of her husband for the purposes of voting, holding office, or performing jury duty. Her residence for those purposes is determined as if she were single.

**2. Becoming 21 on federal property.** A person who becomes 21 years of age while residing on federal property as a patient at or an employee of a federal agency, or while in the armed forces, is deemed to have gained a voting residence in the municipality in which he resided at the time he became such a patient, employee or serviceman.

**3. Voting residence retained.** A person who has gained a voting residence in a municipality retains it, if he so desires, when he becomes a patient at or an employee of a federal agency where he is required to reside on land ceded to the Federal Government by the State. This rule applies to a member of the armed forces or the National Guard who is required to be in a place other than that in which he has gained a voting residence.

**4. Voting residence limited.** A member of the armed forces may not establish a voting residence by being stationed in a garrison, barracks or military place in a municipality. A student may not establish a voting residence by attending an educational institution.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 243. Right survives change of residence**

The right to vote in any election in a municipality continues for 3 months after a voter moves from that municipality, if he continues to reside in the State during that period.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 244. Division of municipality, effect**

When any territory is set off from one municipality and annexed to another, the act establishing the new boundaries must indicate where and for which offices the voters in the territory may vote. If this provision is omitted from the act, the voters may vote for all offices in the municipality to which the territory is annexed.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 245. Restrictions**

There are certain restrictions on voting as provided in this section.

**1. Certain persons may not vote.** A pauper and a person under guardianship may not vote at any election.

**2. Voting restricted to district.** In a municipality which has voting districts, a voter may vote only in the district in which he resides on election day.

**3. Correct name and address on voting list.** A person whose name, or street address in a municipality which has voting districts, does not appear correctly on the voting list on election day may not vote at any election, until it is corrected as provided in section 831.

1961, c. 360, § 1.

**§ 246. Special provisions**

Registration, enrollment and voting by the resident of a township are governed by the following provisions:

**1. Registration and enrollment.** He may register, enroll and vote in any town within his representative district. He may register and enroll on election day. The registrar shall place the letter "T" beside his name on the voting list and on the general register.

**2. Change of voting place.** If he lives in a portion of a township which is not easily accessible to a town within his representative district, he may file a written request with the Secretary of State for a change of voting place. The Secretary of State may designate a more convenient town within or outside the county. He shall notify the registrar of the designated town of the name, residence and change of voting place of the person in question.

**3. Voting restricted.** He may not vote at a municipal election or on a liquor local option question. If he votes in a town outside his representative district, he may not vote for the office of Representative to the Legislature. If he votes in a county other than that in which he resides, he may not vote for Representative to the Legislature, State Senator or for any county office. The incoming election clerk shall mark a line through the names of the offices for which he may not vote, add the letter "T" and initial the outside of the ballot.

**4. Right to vote continues.** His right to vote in any election in the town continues for 3 months after he moves from the township, if he continues to reside in the State during that period.

**5. Absentee voting.** If he is unable to be present at the voting place on election day, he may vote by absentee ballot.

1961, c. 360, § 1.