

Enrollment Eligibility Requirements for the June 12, 2018 Primary Election

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of State – March, 2018

What are the qualified parties?

- **Democratic** – designated in CVR as “**D**”
- **Green Independent** designated in CVR as “**G**” (see note at bottom of page)
- **Libertarian** – designated in CVR as “**L**”
- **Republican** – designated in CVR as “**R**”
- A voter who checks “other” for an enrollment choice on a voter registration application and writes in a party name different from the above (such as Independent, Reform, etc.) must be entered into CVR as **Unenrolled “U”**. (*Maine does not use the term “Independent” for voters who are not enrolled in a party.*)

How does a voter enroll in a party?

- **Unenrolled voter** may enroll at any time, including Election Day, by completing and filing a new voter registration application with the Municipal Registrar – this is **not** considered a change of enrollment.
- Law allows a voter to enroll at the polls, by filing a new voter registration application with the election clerk in charge of the ballots (Title 21-A, §143).
- **Voter registration applications must be available at each voting place on Election Day.**

Are there other restrictions on changing parties?

- A voter who files an application to **change** enrollment is ineligible to vote in a party caucus, convention or a Primary Election for **15 days** after submitting the application to the Registrar.
- CVR will designate the voter as Ineligible (party indicated as X).
- Voter will be printed on voter list with an “**X**” in the party column, if list is printed during the 15-day period.
- “X” indicates voter is **ineligible** to vote in a party caucus, convention or Primary Election during that 15-day period.
- On 15th day after the Municipal Registrar receives an application to change parties, voter becomes enrolled in the new party; CVR will automatically replace the “**X**” with the new party’s designation. (§144.2)
- A voter changing enrollment must file an application by **Monday, May 28, 2018** in order to vote in the new party at the June 12, 2018 Primary Election. Monday, May 28th is a federal and state holiday; however, the waiting period can be no less than 15 days, so **any change of enrollment for the June Primary must occur by that date, regardless of whether it is a holiday or not.** In practice, unless a municipal office is going to be open on Memorial Day, a person who wants to change enrollment will need to do so by Friday the 25th or by Saturday the 26th if the municipal office has Saturday hours.
- **Exception to 15-day ineligibility:** voters who move to a new municipality may enroll in a different party with no 15-day waiting period. They get a “clean slate” when they move.

How long must a voter remain in a party?

- **Voter must remain in party for 3 months before the voter can file an application for either a withdrawal or a change in enrollment** (§142.3).
- A voter who enrolls on Election Day is ineligible to file a withdrawal application after voting.
- The voter must wait 3 months before filing an application to withdraw or change parties (§145).

Are there other restrictions on withdrawal from a party?

- There is also a 15-day waiting period for a voter who withdraws from a party, unless voter has moved to a new municipality.
- The voter is ineligible to enroll in a **different party** for 15 days.
- During that 15-day waiting period, the voter is designated in CVR with an “**X**” and then designated as a “**U**” for unenrolled on the 15th day after the Municipal Registrar receives the withdrawal application.
- The voter may re-enroll in the same party within 15 days after filing a written request for withdrawal from a party (§145.1).

Enrollment Reminders for the June 12, 2018 Primary Election

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of State – March, 2018

- The purpose of the Primary Election is for voters enrolled in Maine’s 4 qualified parties (see reverse) to select party candidates for placement on the General Election ballot in November.
- Maine has a “closed primary” system, which means that – unless a party opts otherwise – only those voters enrolled in one of the 4 parties are eligible to participate in the Primary Election. For the 6/12/18 Primary Election, the Green Independent party has **opted to allow unenrolled voters** to participate in its Primary.
- Please review Chapter 3 of your *Voter Registration & Elections Guide*, as well as pertinent sections of Title 21-A, with regard to enrollment. A summary is provided on the reverse side of this document.
- All of the laws and rules that apply to enrollment, changes in enrollment, and withdrawals from enrollment are incorporated in CVR. If it isn’t allowed by law, then you will not be able to do it in CVR. Some common questions:

Q:	Why is there an “X” and why does it say “Ineligible” in CVR?																								
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <table border="1" style="width: 80%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #e6e6fa;"> <th>Select</th> <th>Status</th> <th>Last Name</th> <th>First Name</th> <th>Middle Name</th> <th>Suffix</th> <th>Date of Birth</th> <th>Residence Address</th> <th>Voter Record #</th> <th>Party</th> <th>Enrollment Date</th> <th>Show ID</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="radio"/></td> <td></td> <td>DILLO</td> <td>DORA</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>03/26/1990</td> <td>1 DILLINGHAM H RD, AUBURN</td> <td>100688243</td> <td>X</td> <td>03/14/2018</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="width: 15%; padding-left: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">Previous Party</div> <p>Party Information: Current Party: INELIGIBLE Enrollment Date: 03/14/2018</p> </div> </div> <p>A: Because the law requires a 15-day waiting period when a person <u>changes</u> enrollment, or goes from enrolled to unenrolled (unless voter is moving to a new municipality). A voter with an “X” for party enrollment on the IVL is not eligible to participate in a party caucus or Primary Election.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;"> DILLO, DORA 1990 1 DILLINGHAM H RD X 1-1 2 20 54 6 </div>	Select	Status	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix	Date of Birth	Residence Address	Voter Record #	Party	Enrollment Date	Show ID	<input checked="" type="radio"/>		DILLO	DORA			03/26/1990	1 DILLINGHAM H RD, AUBURN	100688243	X	03/14/2018	
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<input checked="" type="radio"/>		DILLO	DORA			03/26/1990	1 DILLINGHAM H RD, AUBURN	100688243	X	03/14/2018															
Q:	Why is the enrollment “grayed out” in CVR, and I can’t change it?																								
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: #6a5acd; color: white; padding: 2px;">Party Information</div> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Party</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Other Qualifying Parties</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Party Enrollment Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GREEN INDEPENDENT</td> <td></td> <td>02 - 26 - 2018</td> </tr> </table> </div> <p>A: Because the law requires a person to be in a party for at least 3 months before changing enrollment or withdrawing enrollment (unless voter is moving to a new municipality), and they are not entitled to even submit a change of enrollment or withdrawal of enrollment until the 3 months has passed. DO NOT allow a voter to enroll at check-in and then complete an application to withdraw enrollment after voting.</p>	Party	Other Qualifying Parties	Party Enrollment Date	GREEN INDEPENDENT		02 - 26 - 2018																		
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Q:	Some of my election clerks will change enrollment to help maintain the party balance. Can they change their enrollment back the day after the Election?																								
	<p>A: No. Election clerks changing enrollment to work at an election fall under the same enrollment laws as all other voters – once they change enrollment, they must remain in the new party for at least 3 months before they can change enrollment again.</p>																								

- CVR cannot distinguish between a real change in enrollment and an error. If a mistake in an enrollment designation is made, do not attempt to correct it – it cannot be corrected through the application. Notify the CVR Helpdesk immediately, and the error will be corrected by script.