

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEREDA
FROM: Pierce Atwood's Government Relations & Lobbying Team
RE: Maine 2024 Election Results
DATE: November 8, 2024

LEGISLATIVE RACES**Overview**

The 132nd Maine State Legislature will continue to be controlled by Democrats in both the House and the Senate. In both the House and Senate, Democratic margins have narrowed, where both chambers have a lead of 5 members – a much slimmer margin in the House. While some leadership elections are still being decided, those that are known are reported below.

The new 132nd Legislature will be sworn in on December 4, 2024. On that date, the new legislature will also elect Maine's next Constitutional Officers: the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, and the State Attorney General. Those positions are currently held by Shenna Bellows, Henry Beck, and Aaron Frey, respectively. Henry Beck has stated that he will not be running for reelection. Rep. Maureen Terry, possibly amongst others, has indicated she is seeking the position. Additionally, sometime after December 4, the new legislature's rules committee will meet to set the cloture deadline by which all bills must be submitted for consideration in the 132nd Legislature.

Follow the swearing-in, legislators recess for the holiday season and reconvene to begin their work in earnest on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Maine Senate

Democrats will maintain control of the Maine Senate in the 132nd Maine Legislature, with the total count likely to be 20 Democrats and 15 Republicans (pending the results of two undecided races). All incumbent Senators won reelection, but due to term-outs and other open seats, Senate Democrats face an overall loss of two seats from the 131st Legislature.

Currently, the Democratic Majority leadership of the Maine State Senate is as follows, with Senate Republican Minority leadership still to be determined:

- **President:** Sen. Matty Daughtry
- **Majority Leader:** Sen. Teresa Pierce
- **Assistant Majority Leader:** Sen. Jill Duson

Notable races:

Republicans flipped State Senate District 1, which had been held by Senate President Troy Jackson (D) for eight years. Susan Bernand (R) defeated challenger Vaughn McLaughlin (D) with 66 percent to 34 percent of the vote in State Senate District 1. In State Senate District

20, former House member Bruce Bickford (R) defeated former House member Bettyann Sheats (D) with 50 percent to 46 percent of the vote. The other challenger, Dustin Ward (U), received 4 percent of the vote. Additionally, Dick Bradstreet (R) narrowly defeated challenger Reagan LaRochelle (D) to hold Senate District 15 for Republicans.

Maine House

Democrats will maintain control of the Maine House in the 132nd Maine Legislature, but with much slimmer margins. Pending the final results of the undecided races, as well as several expected recounts, the total count will likely be 77 Democrats, 72 Republicans, and 2 Independents.

A few incumbent Representatives lost their bid for reelection, including:

- Rep. Mark Worth (D), House District 13
- Rep. Ronald Russell (D), House District 17
- Rep. Edward Polewarczyk (R), House District 47
- Rep. Jane Pringle (D), House District 107

Currently, the Republican Minority Leadership of the House is as follows, with Democratic Majority Leadership still to be determined:

- **Minority Leader:** Billy Bob Faulkingham (previously served in this role in the 131st)
- **Assistant Minority Leader:** Katrina Smith
- Ryan Fecteau (D) will be returning and is anticipated to run for speaker, along with Kristen Cloutier (D) and at least four other House Democratic members. They will caucus on November 12 to nominate a candidate for Speaker of the House.

Ballot Questions

Mainers approved a recreational trails, historic building, and research and development bond. In addition, voters approved a measure to place a limit on contributions to Super PACs and opposed an effort to restore the state's flag to an earlier design.

Question 1 - Limit contributions to Super PACs - Passed with 73% in favor.

Question 2 - \$25M for research, development, and commercialization - Passed with 55% in favor.

Question 3 - \$10M for restoration of historic buildings – Passed with 51% in favor.

Question 4 - \$30M for building and maintaining recreational trails - Passed with 55% in favor.

Question 5 - Change the state flag - Failed with 55% opposed.

FEDERAL ELECTION RESULTS

President

Vice President Kamala Harris (D) won Maine's popular vote both statewide and in the 1st Congressional District, receiving three electoral votes. Former President Donald Trump (R) won the popular vote in the 2nd Congressional District, receiving one electoral vote. Maine divides its electoral votes, with the winner of the statewide popular vote receiving two electoral votes and the popular vote winner in each congressional district receiving an additional electoral vote. This represents just the third time in Maine's history that we have split our electoral votes, with the other occurrences in 2016 and 2020 when President Trump also won Maine's 2nd Congressional District.

Harris: 417,338 (52.6%)
Trump: 360,166 (45.4%)

1st Congressional District

Harris: 233,381 (60%)
Trump: 147,101 (37.8%)

2nd Congressional District

Trump: 210,363 (53%)
Harris: 178,461 (45%)

U.S. Senate

Incumbent Senator Angus King (I) defeated challenger Demi Kouzounas (R) 51.8 percent to 34.5 percent. The other two challengers, David Costello (D) and Jason Cherry (I), received 10.6 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively. Senator King will serve his third term in the U.S. Senate.

King: 414,462 (51.8%)
Kouzounas: 276,043 (34.5%)
Costello: 84,636 (10.6%)
Cherry: 20,109 (2.5%)

1st Congressional District

Incumbent Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D) won reelection against challenger Ronald Russell (R), with 58.3 percent to 36.0 percent of the vote in Maine's 1st Congressional District. The other challenger, Ethan Alcorn (I), received 4.9 percent of the vote. Representative Pingree will serve her ninth term in the U.S. House.

Pingree: 240,034 (58.3%)
Russell: 148,217 (36.0%)
Alcorn: 20,127 (4.9%)

2nd Congressional District

Incumbent Congressman Jared Golden (D) won reelection against challenger Austin Theriault (R), with 50.3 percent to 49.7 percent of the vote in Maine's 2nd Congressional District. Representative Golden will serve his fourth term in the U.S. House.

Golden: 191,715 (50.3%)
Theriault: 189,258 (49.7%)