

Maine Governor

THE ISSUES

**PAUL
LePAGE**

REPUBLICAN



**JANET
MILLS**

DEMOCRAT • INCUMBENT



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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Likely ban. In 2016 at a Right-to-Life rally said “We should not have abortion.” After Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade said “I don't know” if he supports 6- or 15-week abortion bans; “I don't have time for abortion...abortion affects few Mainers.”	Legal. Signed a bill allowing physician assistants and advance practice registered nurses perform abortions , in addition to physicians. Signed an order protecting women from other states receiving abortion care in Maine.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority? Tax or limit the output of greenhouse gases, or support renewable energy?	Mostly no. Placed a moratorium on wind energy development. Says nuclear and hydropower are the answer to climate change, and not buying Chinese products made with fossil fuels. Supports ending state solar power subsidies.	Yes. Initiated a 4-year Climate Plan for carbon reduction and renewable energy, and a Jobs & Recovery Plan with clean energy provisions. Signed an executive order that would make Maine carbon neutral by 2045.
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. As governor, proposed school vouchers for low-income students , and public funding for religious schools. Supports “school choice” and having “educational dollars follow the student.”	No. “I firmly oppose taking tax dollars from the public education system to fund new private or charter schools.”
EDUCATION How to address the teaching of issues around racism and gender identity?	“We have done enough damage to our children.” Students are being taught “what to think” rather than “how to think.” Will enact a parents' bill of rights.	Signed a bill integrating “African American Studies and the History of Genocide” into the state education system.
EDUCATION Increase funding for K-12 and higher education?	No. Proposed cutting the number of school districts and superintendents to cut taxes. As governor did not meet the voter-mandated threshold on state funding of local school costs.	Yes. Signed budget that raised education funding and minimum teacher salaries. Is the first Maine governor to meet the 2004 voter-mandated threshold on state funding of local school costs.
ELECTIONS Did Joe Biden legitimately win the 2020 Presidential election?	No. “I tell you, this is clearly a stolen election. I think 70 million (Trump voters) all recognize that too many votes were illegitimate votes. People have voted more than once.”	Yes. “Our country has conducted a free and a fair election in which the American people have spoken.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Loosen. Lobbied for offshore drilling in Maine. Proposed bills to repeal environmental regulations and prevent local governments from banning toxic chemicals. Opposed “aggressive regulatory overreach” by the EPA.	Tighten. Signed bills ending disposal of out-of-state hazardous waste in state-owned landfills and spreading of sludge containing “forever chemicals.” Signed a budget with \$40 million for new conservation, including wildlife protection.
GUN RULES Pass less or more restrictive legislation on guns?	Less. As governor, opposed universal background checks and signed a bill allowing permitless concealed carry.	Mostly more. Signed a “yellow flag law” letting police take guns from people deemed by a court to be a threat, after medical assessment. Signed a bill subsidizing voluntary safe gun storage. Was noncommittal on private sale background checks.

ISSUES	LEPAGE (R)	MILLS (D)
HEALTH CARE Increase government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid, limiting drug prices, or promoting COVID safety?	No. As governor refused to implement voter-approved Medicaid expansion . For Medicaid, “will reinstate work rules. If you’re able-bodied, you need to go to work.” Would end a COVID vaccine requirement for health care professionals, and for children, “let them all have it” to get herd immunity.	Yes. Expedited Medicaid expansion . Signed comprehensive prescription drug reform . Funded training for health care workers and proposed spending \$50 million to help sustain hospitals and nursing homes . Supported a “Patient Bill of Rights” to require insurance companies to cover COVID testing and vaccination.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children?	In 2014 sought to limit aid to asylum seekers . In 2015 said illegal immigrants were driving infectious disease cases . In 2016 ended Maine’s cooperation with a federal refugee program . In 2017 supported ending DACA . In 2022 said he welcomes refugees, supports legal immigration .	Supports “comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level” to speed up review of asylum applications, and supports expedited work authorization so asylum seekers can work in Maine . Supports DACA .
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Harder. Has supported “right-to-work” laws , which allow employees in a unionized workplace to not pay union fees for collective bargaining.	Mixed. Signed a law allowing Maine loggers and wood haulers to engage in collective bargaining . Vetoed a bill letting farmworkers unionize .
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Limit. Vetoed a bill that would prohibit “conversion therapy” for minors, “treatment that seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity.”	Expand. Signed a bill “banning conversion therapy” for minors . Signed a bill upgrading the status of LGBTQ veterans who were less than honorably discharged .
MARIJUANA Should recreational marijuana be banned or legal?	Ban. Vetoed a bill that would have set up an adult-use recreational marijuana market . Said “marijuana impairment” would increase car crashes .	Legal. Signed a bill that established a legal framework for the sale of recreational marijuana .
MINIMUM WAGE Keep or raise the state minimum from \$12.75 per hour? If raise, how much?	No. Opposed efforts to raise the wage in 2013, in 2016, in 2017, and in 2018 .	Unclear on a general raise. Negotiated a \$15 per hour minimum for state employees . Increased Medicaid minimum payments for direct care workers to 125 percent of the state’s minimum wage .
POLICE AND COMMUNITY How to address police use of force?	No position found on use of force. “Maine’s law enforcement officers...always have our backs—as Maine’s next Governor—I’ll always have their backs.”	Signed a bill requiring the Attorney General to speed up investigations when police use deadly force . Signed a bill to limit use of no-knock warrants . Criticized a bill granting legal immunity to “anyone” at the scene of a drug overdose .
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans or forgiving them?	Yes. Cosponsored a bill expanding Maine’s student debt relief program . Supports student debt relief to attract “talented young people.”	Yes. “Will fund an overhaul of the Opportunity Maine Tax Credit,” giving student loan debtors “up to \$25,000 of debt relief.”
TAXES Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay more or less taxes?	Less. In 2015 proposed to lower the corporate tax rate from 8.93% to 6.75%, and eliminate the estate tax , funding the cuts with an increase in the state sales tax. He renewed that call in 2021 .	Maintain current tax levels. Pledged not to raise taxes in her first two-year budget and opposed a legislative move to raise taxes on high earners.
VOTING RULES Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?	Yes. Supports requiring photo ID in order to vote .	No. In 2020 extended the deadline for mail voter registration . Signed a 2022 bill instituting automatic voter registration . Would veto legislation requiring voter ID .

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