

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) |
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| 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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