Majorities of Both Maine Republicans and Democrats Agree on 100 Policy Proposals

This sheet shows bipartisan common ground on 100 policy proposals statewide — and on nearly as many in the 2nd Congressional District — across 14 issue areas. Most of these proposals were drawn from Congressional legislation and some from the Executive Branch. Mainers also agree that Congress would be more likely to find common ground if it were more influenced by *We the People*. The findings come from the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* Survey Series, conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) in the run-up to the 2026 midterm elections. Numbers are the percent of **Republicans** and **Democrats** in support. Questions are abbreviated here — full question wording and more detail are at **vop.org/battlegrounds-maine**.

THE MAINE COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Republicans and Democrats

100	98
Maine statewide	ME-2

Of the 106 policy questions, a policy is counted as receiving bipartisan support when at least 51% of both Republicans and Democrats take the same position. Medicaid spending is listed twice, but counted once; Role of We the People questions are not counted.

HEALTHCARE COSTS Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Cap prescription drug prices to what other developed countries pay (would reduce prices by about half)	91	89	88	84
Ban drug companies from paying generic makers to delay putting cheaper drugs on to the market	82	85	82	82
When a drug is unaffordable and was developed with federal funds, let the government override the patent and license other drug companies to make it	83	82	81	79
Reinstate the expired enhanced ACA subsidies to lower premiums and deductibles	77	89	78	90
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more low-income people *Also listed under Low-Income Assistance; counted once in the tally.*	64	84	68	82
Let people 55–64 buy into Medicare	83	81	82	82
Create a government-run public health insurance option anyone can buy into	79	85	80	81
Spend $13 billion more on substance-use treatment so nearly everyone who needs and wants it can get it	73	83	72	79
Make it a high priority for the government to ensure that everyone who needs and wants substance-use treatment can get it (very or somewhat high priority)	85	90	84	89
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	9		9	

SOCIAL SECURITY Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Subject income over $400,000 to the payroll tax (-61%)	78	86	74	84
Gradually raise the payroll tax from 6.2% to 6.5% (-15%)	61	66	64	65
Reduce benefits for the top 20% of lifetime earners (-11%)	67	69	65	72
Gradually raise the full retirement age from 67 to 68 (-15%)	58	55	56	55
Raise the minimum monthly benefit to $1,630 (125% of the poverty line) (+8%)	78	79	76	79

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Base cost-of-living adjustments to what older adults actually buy (+12%)	69	69	71	69
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	6		6	

FAMILIES & CHILDREN Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Provide $25 billion to states and cities for to create or expand free universal preschool programs	70	83	74	80
Subsidize childcare so low- and middle-income families pay no more than 7% of income	78	82	78	79
Raise the Child Tax Credit to $3,600 and make it fully refundable for all income levels	73	80	73	79
Create a national 12-week paid family and medical leave program for all workers, funded by a 0.2% payroll tax	65	81	64	81
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	4		4	

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Tax incentives for builders to build or repair homes affordable to low- and middle-income households	77	87	77	83
Invest $40 billion to build high-density housing affordable to very low- and low-income households	67	83	66	81
Provide $25 billion to local governments to build affordable high-density housing for low- and middle-income households	70	81	74	78
Increase funding for rental vouchers for the very low-income, elderly and disabled by $24 billion	77	87	83	84
Prohibit large corporations from owning single-family homes	81	82	79	77
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5		5	

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Raise monthly SNAP benefits for individuals living alone above the current $170 (allowed to choose the amount)	75	83	74	82
…for single mothers above the current $530	55	63	51	66
Offer discounts on fruits and vegetables bought with SNAP	89	93	86	90
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more people (allowed to increase, keep the same, or decrease) *Also listed under Healthcare Costs; counted once in the tally.*	64	84	68	82
Raise the federal minimum wage above $7.25 (allowed to choose the amount) *Median Democrat: $15 everywhere. Median Republican: $13 statewide; $12 in ME-2.*	88	96	86	96
Raise the maximum Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without children from $630 to $1,300	78	80	77	81
Raise the savings limit for EITC eligibility	75	83	74	84
Lower the EITC eligibility age from 25 to 21	64	68	63	67
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	8		8	

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Create a federal agency to monitor and regulate AI	82	86	85	84
Require new AI programs that make critical decisions (e.g. review health insurance claims) to pass a government test to: ensure they follow the law, are unbiased, have security protections	81	85	80	82
For critical decision-making AI programs already in use, let the government audit them	76	81	76	79
Require deepfakes to be labeled as AI-generated	88	90	92	89
Prohibit campaigns and PACs from using deepfakes in ads	86	90	87	89
Work toward an international treaty regulating large-scale AI	75	84	75	85
Work toward an international treaty banning fully autonomous weapons (use AI to fire on targets without human command)	81	85	82	84
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	7		7	

IMMIGRATION Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Deport undocumented immigrants convicted of a crime	92	88	91	88
Offer legal status to long-term undocumented immigrants with no criminal record who pay a penalty and back taxes	69	81	70	78
Offer a path to citizenship to those brought here illegally as children	74	87	72	85
Require E-Verify for all new hires AND increase the number of work visas to match labor demand	84	87	88	82
Hire hundreds more asylum judges and staff to cut wait times (which are currently several years on average)	72	80	67	80
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5		5	

ABORTION & BIRTH CONTROL Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Do not make abortion a crime before fetal viability (chose between multiple options for criminalization)	71	95	73	95
Fund clinics to provide free or low-cost birth control to women who can't afford it	70	95	63	96
Prohibit states from restricting access to birth control	73	94	61	91
Continue to require that health insurance cover birth control	77	94	67	94
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	4		4	

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Make reducing air pollution a high priority	77	95	72	95
Make reducing greenhouse gas emissions a high priority	67	97	64	97
Adopt a goal of cutting U.S. emissions 2% a year	70	93	64	95

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Provide tax credits for producing energy that has not greenhouse gas emissions (solar, wind, geothermal, nuclear)	71	92	64	92
Require electric companies to get a minimum share of power from zero-carbon sources	65	92	60	91
Tax credits for making homes and buildings more energy-efficient	80	93	80	94
Require new cars to get more miles per gallon	77	91	74	91
Commit with other countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	72	95	65	95
Take part in international efforts to study and share climate and energy data	73	91	72	91
Provide financial assistance and job training to fossil-fuel workers who lose their jobs in the transition to clean energy	80	95	79	97
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	10		10	

FEDERAL TAXES Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON FEDERAL REVENUE)*	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Wealth tax of 2% on wealth over $50 million and 3% over $1 billion (+$200B)	70	91	68	91
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $200,000–$500,000 (+$26B)	61	63	*48*	70
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $500,000–$1 million (+$18B)	61	84	59	85
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $1 million or more (+$120B)	72	90	64	91
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $200,000–$500,000 income from 21% to at least 24% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$145B)	*48*	67	*38*	68
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $500,000–$1 million income from 25% to at least 28% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$48B)	*47*	80	*40*	79
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $1 million+ income from 27% to at least 29% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$73B)	*50*	83	*45*	82
Tax hedge fund managers' income like ordinary income (end the carried-interest break) (+$1B)	74	90	69	90
Apply the estate tax to more inherited wealth, by lowering the tax exemption from $15 million to $5 million (chose between multiple options, including eliminating the tax) (+$17B)	51	67	*44*	71
Raise the effective corporate tax rate from 12% to at least 14% (allowed to increase, keep same, or decrease) (+$41B)	*45*	77	*39*	80
Impose a 0.01% tax on stock purchases (+$30B)	*48*	65	*44*	70
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	6		4	

GOVERNMENT REFORM Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Require that all Congressional redistricting be done by non-partisan citizen commissions (equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and independents)	82	87	86	86

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Pass a Constitutional amendment setting term limits for Congress (four terms in the House, two in the Senate)	88	93	83	93
Use ranked choice voting in Congressional elections with three or more candidates	*46*	71	*41*	71
Prohibit members of Congress from trading stocks in individual companies	77	83	72	80
Prohibit the President, Vice President and Supreme Court Justices from trading stocks in individual companies	70	76	64	74
Require Supreme Court Justices to follow the same ethics standards as all other federal judges	84	91	84	90
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5		5	

CAMPAIGN FINANCE Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Pass a Constitutional amendment allowing Congress and state legislatures to restrict corporate and PAC spending on elections (overturning Citizens United)	81	92	79	88
Encourage small donors by making half of small campaign contributions refundable as a tax credit	55	72	54	70
Require corporations, unions and other groups to immediately report campaign-related spending to their shareholders and members, the public and the FEC	88	92	86	92
Require the FEC to publicly disclose the names of significant donors paying for TV or radio ads about candidates or controversial issues	83	90	83	89
Require federal contractors to publicly disclose donations to groups that spend on campaign-related activities	84	93	83	92
Keep the prohibition on nonprofits that receive tax-deductible donations (e.g. churches, universities) from endorsing or funding candidates	75	86	78	87
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	6		6	

CRIMINAL JUSTICE Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Require police officers to intervene when another officer is using excessive force, and train them to do so	89	94	85	93
Prohibit chokeholds that cut off breathing or blood flow to the brain	62	88	53	89
Require police departments to have body cameras and officers to wear them and turn them on when responding to calls or interacting with suspects	83	92	83	90
Require law enforcement agencies to report officer misconduct to a national database available to other agencies making hiring decisions	87	95	86	95
Fund states to hire independent prosecutors when an officer is charged with using deadly force	77	87	73	91
Lower the mandatory minimum sentence for major drug offenses from 10 years to 5, and let the judge decide whether it should be more	61	75	59	72
Let federal judges release prisoners convicted as juveniles who have served at least 20 years, with 5 years of supervised release	70	84	67	83
Restrict solitary confinement so it cannot be used as punishment for minor violations, or for no more than 30 days in a row	78	93	72	96
Prohibit employers and licensing boards from disqualifying someone who was arrested but never charged or convicted	70	78	69	74

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
…or convicted of a petty, nonviolent crime (e.g. littering, jaywalking, loitering)	66	73	67	69
…or convicted of a crime unrelated to their ability to do the job	61	64	56	56
Limit how long employers and licensing boards can disqualify a person: one year after a misdemeanor sentence, five years after a felony	75	84	70	82
Automatically seal the record of a non-violent drug conviction five years after the sentence is completed	71	81	65	79
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	13		13	

AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD Fielded July 21 – Aug. 2, 2026

PROPOSAL	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Make upholding collective security a high priority — contributing to collective military operations or using economic sanctions in response to aggression	86	76	87	73
Continue to be part of NATO	70	93	63	93
Continue to provide military assistance to Ukraine (equipment, ammunition, training and intelligence)	57	75	55	76
Have nuclear arms control treaties with Russia that limit both arsenals and require inspections	80	87	75	86
Continue to abide by the moratorium on testing nuclear weapons	77	86	76	86
Require the President to get a Congressional declaration of war before using nuclear weapons first (sole authority kept for responding to a nuclear attack)	75	66	69	69
Automatically cut off funding for a military action started by the President if Congress does not approve it within 60 days (except in response to a direct attack)	55	89	51	90
Provide foreign aid for humanitarian relief (food, medical care and shelter for victims of famine, floods or war)	81	96	78	96
…for global health (treating and preventing disease, training doctors and nurses, clean water)	82	95	82	96
…for economic development (food production, infrastructure, private enterprise and financial systems)	68	85	67	90
…for education (training teachers, school attendance, literacy)	73	95	70	95
…for the environment (reducing pollution, cleaner energy, preparing for natural disasters)	69	91	62	93
…for democracy (free and fair elections, human rights, a free press and the rule of law)	77	88	74	93
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	13		13	

THE MAINE COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Republicans and Democrats

100	98
Maine statewide	ME-2

THE ROLE OF "WE THE PEOPLE" Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

POSITIONS	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
If Congress were more influenced by the people, it would be more likely to find common ground	92	93	94	93

POSITIONS	MAINE		ME-2	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
…more likely to serve the common good	91	91	90	88
Listening to the people would help break the logjam in Congress, because the people are less polarized than members of Congress	86	75	89	80
News stories on policy should include relevant public opinion data most of the time or always	75	84	72	85
When Congress is going to vote on a bill, it's very important for news to report whether a majority favors the law	72	76	69	78
Estimated share of the time federal elected officials do what the majority of the public wants (*mean %)*	*33*	*35*	*36*	*38*

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

The surveys were conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) as part of the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* series covering 11 competitive states and 28 competitive U.S. House districts.

The 106 policy proposals included in these surveys were chosen because national surveys by PPC and others had found majorities of both Republicans and Democrats in support. The battleground survey series sought to see whether that common ground holds in competitive states and districts. Project partners are PPC, the Civic Innovation Center at the University of Maryland, and Voice of the People. None advocates for policy positions or endorses candidates.

Maine was surveyed in two waves. Wave 1 (Healthcare, Social Security, Families & Children, Housing, Low-Income Assistance, Artificial Intelligence, Immigration, The Role of *We the People*) was fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026, to 800 adults statewide and 500 in ME-2; the confidence intervals are ±6.6 and 5.7%.

Wave 2 (Abortion & Birth Control, Energy & Environment, Federal Taxes, Government Reform, Campaign Finance, Criminal Justice, America's Role in the World) was fielded July 21 – August 2, 2026, to 811 adults statewide and 504 in ME-2; the confidence intervals are ±6.9 and 5.9%.

Samples were drawn from multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata, and Prodege. Samples were pre-stratified and/or weighted to match the adult population of each geography by key demographics (gender, age, race/ethnicity, income and education). The distributions of partisan affiliation were within expectations based on voter registration for non-leaners or the Cook Partisan Voting Index for leaners, or weighted to be so.

Maine press releases and questionnaires: **vop.org/battlegrounds-maine**
All states and districts surveyed: **vop.org/battlegrounds-aggregate**