



STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE
OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

MATTHEW DUNLAP
SECRETARY OF STATE

Open Letter to the Youth of Maine from Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap

Dear Maine Youth:

I am writing to encourage you to vote in our upcoming election. Your choices for the leaders and legislators of our state and nation are vital to our future!

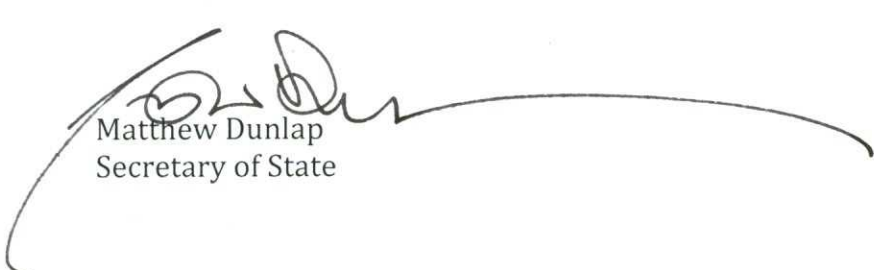
I also want to urge you to actively encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to vote and to volunteer to assist your local town office or other polling place. Maine poll officials will need help assisting people to vote on November 3, 2020 as well as counting all the absentee ballots.

What many people don't know is that you can work the polls as young as 17 years old. You simply need to "pre-register" to vote at your local town office or city hall; once you are "pre-registered," you can help at the polls even though you cannot actually vote until you turn 18. Here is the section of Maine law that pertains to this information: 21-A Section 503-A 1. Qualifications; compensation. Election clerks must be at least 18 years of age, must be registered to vote and must be residents of the municipality or the county in which they serve, except that residents of a municipality or county who are 17 years of age and who are conditionally registered to vote pursuant to section 155 also qualify to serve as election clerks. Election clerks are entitled to reasonable compensation as determined by the municipal officers.

If you need further information about how to become a poll worker, please check out a new website created by a team here in Maine called Youthwork Makes the Booth Work: youthworkmakestheboothwork.org. They have a youth steering committee and are doing great work laying the foundation for young people to get involved directly in our democracy!

Finally, if you encounter difficulties in taking these essential first steps as a citizen of Maine and the United States, do not hesitate to contact my office. I want to make sure that your energy and your vote help to make the coming election (and all those after it) a success. Our democracy depends on all our participation.

Sincerely,



Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State