

Maine 2020 Statewide Election Analysis

As Election Day 2020 dawned, the Maine House consisted of 87 Democrat members and 56 Republican members with 6 members being from other parties and the roll call listing 2 vacancies. The Maine State Senate consisted of 21 Democrats and 14 Republicans. The Maine Senate races, in particular, saw massive expenditures and certain members targeted. Senate races are completed as there will be no apparent recounts and Ranked Choice Voting will not impact final totals. The Maine House has four races that will get automatic recounts given the winner was less than 100 votes in the lead (H58, H62, H82, and H 98).

The Maine Senate analysis is somewhat simple: the Democrats gained one seat to hold a 22-13 advantage. The CCL endorsed 19 Senate candidates with 11 of them prevailing. Money was focused on many of the races; the two most notable changes are Senate Republican lead Senator Dana Dow was defeated in a close race in Senate 13. Sen. Dow was endorsed by CCL Maine and was always available to meet with us, listen and even seek our guidance. He will be missed. The other race to mention is Senate 2 where Rep. Trey Stewart successfully challenged incumbent Sen. Michael Carpenter. CCL Maine endorsed Rep. Stewart, and he also has been a champion for issues we care deeply about. We look forward to his presence in the Maine Senate.

The Maine House would appear to have had a much busier night with many changes and a move (hopefully) back towards better representing our mission. The current numbers 80-D, 67-R and 4-I will be affirmed in the coming days. Given the tighter spread between majority and minority, it may be more difficult to pass controversial bills and certainly likely that constitutional changes are safe. The upcoming session will certainly deal with remnants of the COVID crisis and budget shortfalls that will need collaboration to attempt resolution. The Republican House members are in a much better position to have voice and impact.

In the individual races, we saw many newcomers attempt runs, many worked hard and well (even in defeat). CCL Maine endorsed 85 candidates of which 58 won. York County saw 5 allied representatives added to its 22 seats. Androscoggin County has nine seats and saw 5 allied representatives elected. In summary, the next Maine House will have a new Speaker (Rep. Gideon has moved on), a tighter balance of power and lots of work ahead. CCL Maine will be there from Day 1 and you can follow our social media and website to learn more and perhaps find your own role in the next session of the Maine Legislature.
