

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Voters' Guide

ASL-based Voting Assistance for
November 3, 2009 Elections

Courtesy of
Goodwill Deaf Services
and
The League of Young Voters



Workshop Agenda:

- Voting important WHY?

Makes decisions happen, change laws, MUST give your opinion about city/town, community and country.

- Voting happens HOW?

Go to City Clerk office in City Hall, give name and address (MUST have photo ID, work ID okay if have picture). City Clerk will help you register for voting. Finished, can vote 3 ways, (1) get form (called “absentee”) from City Clerk, mail to City Hall, (2) go to City Hall before Election Day, can register and vote there,

(3) go to voting places on election day (November 3, 2009), vote.

- WHO can vote?

In Maine, if over age 18, CAN vote. If you have guardian, doesn't matter still CAN vote.

- After vote finished, WHAT happens?

After Election Day finished, special people count votes, if more people vote "yes" law can change. If more people vote "no" law stays same.

- Issue being voted now, WHICH?

November 3, 2009 election voting on 7 different issues (called "ballot questions").

Ballot Questions for 2009

QUESTION #1: Man-dating-Man marry illegal, and Woman-dating-Woman illegal, yes no WHICH?

___ IF VOTE YES:

- Marriage means WHAT? Man-dating-Woman ONLY.

___ IF VOTE NO:

- Marriage means WHAT? Man-dating-Woman or Man-dating-Man or Woman-dating-Woman.

QUESTION #2: Cars not old – new –
(called “Hybrid”) better energy, not pay
taxes on car for 3 years.

 IF VOTE YES:

- New energy better for owners – no pay
car taxes.
- Make environment healthy
- Make people buy new Hybrid cars

 IF VOTE NO:

- All cars/owners pay taxes.
- Taxes help Maine build new
roads/help towns.

QUESTION #3: In 2007 law passed, makes schools combine – few small schools turn into one big school. This question turns big school back into few small schools.

____ IF VOTE YES:

- Cities control school sizes YES, state NO
- Save money for cities.

____ IF VOTE NO:

- Save money for Maine
- Big schools means more money for students.

QUESTION #4: Make government have
limit on spending, yes no WHICH?
Limit tax sizes, yes no WHICH?

___ IF VOTE YES:

- Voter decide all money government uses.
- Every time government spend money, voters MUST vote.
- Some government programs may lose money.

___ IF VOTE NO:

- Government decide HOW spend all money.
- Keep most government programs.

QUESTION #5: Marijuana become legal for making sick people feel better – only give out by doctors – same as medicine.

____ IF VOTE YES:

- Marijuana can help sick people feel better.
- Help government control marijuana.

____ IF VOTE NO:

- Marijuana not legal

QUESTION #6: Want state of Maine pay money, help fix roads, airports, bridges, boats, make better?

 IF VOTE YES:

- Money will make roads/airports/bridges better.
- Government will pay 2x amount Maine pays.
- Will create jobs.
- Will create debt, Maine people must pay back in future.

 IF VOTE NO:

- Not have as much money to build roads/bridges/airports better.
- Will not create debt.

If person wants law change, can ask people, “You agree, yes no WHICH?” If yes, people sign paper, called PETITION. If petition collects 55,000 names, government can put question on ballot, finished, people can vote, “change law yes no WHICH?”

QUESTION #7: Now, government has 5 days check names, make sure real names for people registered can-vote in Maine. If change law, city clerk has 10 days check names, make sure people registered can-vote in Maine.

___ IF VOTE YES WHY:

- MUST be sure names are people registered can-vote in Maine, can take lot of time.

___ IF VOTE NO WHY:

- If changing Maine constitution, NEED important reason.

CAN fill out this ballot before go vote,
can take with you, voting easier if you
finished know “want to vote yes no
which?”, can help make less confusing.

_____’s 2009
Election Ballot

QUESTION #1:

___ YES

___ NO

QUESTION #2:

___ YES

___ NO

QUESTION #3:

___ YES

___ NO

QUESTION #4:

YES

NO

QUESTION #5:

YES

NO

QUESTION #6:

YES

NO

QUESTION #7:

YES

NO