

ELECTED OFFICES IN WALDO COUNTY

Select Boards and Town or City Councils

- Select board members and councilors are paid a stipend or small salary to make policy and administrative decisions for the municipality.
- Most are elected either during the town meeting or at a special town election close to the town meeting date.
- Elections in most towns are held in March and some in June; Belfast elects city councilors in November.
- The term of office is usually 3 years, but it is 1 year in some cases, and 2 years in Belfast.
- To get on the ballot, some towns require candidates to get voter signatures on petitions (nomination papers) and file to run at least 60 days before the election; others do not require filing in advance.
- Deadlines for filing to run vary from town to town. Check with your town office 3-4 months before your town meeting.

School Boards and Committees

- School boards generally meet 1 or 2 times per month and are usually paid a small stipend.
- Waldo County has a range of school administrative structures, including Regional School Districts, School Administrative Districts, and School Unions that serve more than one municipality, and Municipal School Units that serve a single municipality.
- In RSUs and SADs, at least one member of the board is elected from each town that is part of the district. A candidate for the town's school board seat must be a resident of the town, but the member is elected "at-large," meaning that residents from all the towns in the district vote in the race for each school board seat.
- Municipalities that operate their own schools generally have a school committee with elected members. Visit your town office website to learn more.
- School boards and committees serving Waldo County municipalities:
 - RSU 3 serving Brooks, Freedom, Jackson, Knox, Liberty, Monroe, Montville, Thorndike, Troy, Unity, and Waldo <https://www.rsu3.org/page/school-board>
 - RSU 71 serving Belfast, Belmont, Morrill, Searsmont, and Swanville <https://www.rsu71.org/board-of-directors/board-meeting-information>
 - RSU 20 serving Searsport and Stockton Springs <https://www.rsu20.org/>
 - RSU 22 serving Winterport, Frankfort, and other towns <https://www.rsu22.us/about/board>
 - RSU 25 serving Prospect and other towns https://www.rsu25.org/school_board
 - RSU 12 serving Palermo and other towns <https://www.svrso.org/o/pes>
 - RSU 53 serving Burnham and other towns <https://www.msad53.org/board/board-of-directors>
 - School Union #69 serving Lincolnville and other towns https://union.fivetowns.net/school_committees/lincolnville_school_committee

- Islesboro Central School <https://islesborocentralschool.org/school-board-members/>
- Northport School Committee <https://drinkwaterschool.org/school-committee-financials/>

Planning Boards

- Planning boards are usually unpaid officials who hear from residents seeking permission to build on their property and determine whether the application complies with local ordinances.
- Members apply local planning ordinances in accordance with state laws that affect housing, businesses, environmental concerns, and other issues.
- Planning boards are sometimes called upon to develop local ordinances addressing particular concerns.
- Some planning board members are appointed, some are elected. Check with your town office for more info.

Waldo County Board of Commissioners

- County Commissioners are part-time paid positions that supervise and administer county government, with departments ranging from the Sheriff's office and county jail to Probate Court and Emergency Management.
- Waldo County Commission's annual budget is more than \$9 million.
- The county has 3 County Commission districts and each commissioner serves a 4-year term.
- County Commissioner races are subject to guidelines set out in the Secretary of State's Candidate Guide to Ballot Access which can be downloaded at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/candidate/index.html>.
- FMI visit <https://www.waldocountyme.gov> or download the separate Waldo County Board of Commissioners handout from www.waldocountydemocrats.com/candidate-resources.

Other County-Level Elected Officials (4-year terms)

- **Judge of Probate** - paid position, presides over and decides matters involving wills, adoptions, guardianships, name changes, and other proceedings.
- **Register of Probate** - paid position, responsible for matters concerning the probating of wills, appointment of personal representatives, adoption orders, and proceedings, as well as passport services.
- **Register of Deeds** - paid position, handles documents related to the ownership of every piece of property in the county and maintains them so that they are searchable by all entities and for all time.
- **Treasurer** - a part-time paid position responsible for maintaining the county's financial records, bill payment, collection of fees owed to the County, borrowing, investment, and other matters related to the County's finances. Day-to-day functions are carried out by hired administrators.

- **Sheriff** - paid position, administers patrol operations and criminal investigations involving domestic violence, burglaries, thefts, child abuse, motor vehicle crashes, and more; also administers the county jail.

State Legislature

- The Maine House of Representatives has 151 voting members and 3 non-voting members representing the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. Representatives are elected to two-year terms, representing districts of approximately 9,000 people.
 - Waldo County House Districts are illustrated in the map below.
 - Find your House District at <https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/MemberProfiles/ListAlphaTown>.
 - Visit <https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/> for more information.
- The Maine Senate has 35 voting members, each serving 2-year terms and representing about 35,000 people.
 - All of Waldo County is in Senate District 11.
 - Visit <https://legislature.maine.gov/senate/> for more information.
- No Representative or Senator may serve more than 4 terms in the same district consecutively.
- There are two regular sessions during a legislator's term. The first begins in December of the year they're elected and generally runs through June; the second session begins in January of the following year and runs through April. Demands on legislators' time are highest when the legislature is in session, and sessions can run longer than usual some years.
- Legislators serve on joint committees made up of both Representatives and Senators, where much of the legislative work is carried out. Committees may continue to meet after legislative sessions adjourn.
- Legislators respond to many constituent requests for information and assistance. A small staff assists legislators with responding to these requests and some other responsibilities of the job. Legislators are also called upon to attend public events and meet with other public officials in their district.
- Legislative candidates are eligible to participate in the public campaign finance program established by the Maine Clean Elections Act. See <https://www.maine.gov/ethics/candidates/maine-clean-election-act>.
- Representatives and Senators elected in 2024 will be paid a salary of \$25,000 for the first year and \$20,000 in the 2nd year of their term. They may also receive meal, housing, and mileage allowances.
- Legislative races are subject to the guidelines set out in the Secretary of State's Candidate Guide to Ballot Access, which sets out how many petition signatures are needed and when petitions must be filed. Download the guide at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/candidate/index.html>.
- Ballot petitions must be verified by municipal clerks and submitted to the SOS by March 15; primaries are held June 11; and Representatives and Senators are elected on November 5.

Waldo County House Districts Map

Also in D68
Clinton
Pittsfield

Also in D63
Albion
Unity
Part of Winslow

Also in D62
China
Windsor
Hibbits Gore
Somerville

Also in D40
Appleton

