

ME-02 District Primer

In 2024, Democrat Jared Golden won this seat by 2,696 votes. **That's close!** With a winning margin of *just two votes* per precinct, we can't afford to lose a single vote. With your help, we're going to **HOLD** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates

Filing Deadline: March 16

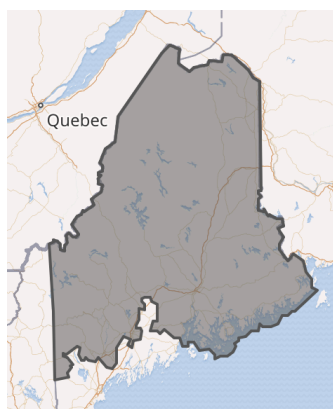
Primary: June 9

Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Trump: 212,763 (53.5%) Harris: 176,789 (44.5%)	Jared Golden (D): 197,151 (50.3%) Austin Theriault (R): 194,455 (49.7%)	Jared Golden (D): 190,820 (53%) Bruce Poliquin (R): 168,291 (46.9%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Lewiston, pop. 38,324
- Bangor, 31,938
- Auburn, 24,602

Geography

ME-02 is a largely rural district encompassing over 90% of the state. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the southeast, and New Hampshire to the west, with much of the district bordering Canada. Lewiston is the largest city; Augusta, the state capital, is also in the district.

Citizenry

ME-02 is overwhelmingly white, with virtually no other group comprising more than 1-2% of the population. Prominent industries include manufacturing, forest products, agriculture, and with its expansive coastline, the state supplies 90% of the nation's lobsters. The district is a perennial battleground, with Rep. Golden, a Democrat, having won a House seat in a state that went for Trump.

The Local Vibe

The state uses ranked-choice voting.

The more rural areas are also more conservative; the more liberal area along Maine's southern coast has swung the state for Democrats in most elections.

There are a lot of students in the district. The University of Maine has several locations in ME-02 including the flagship campus in Orono with more than 12,000 students. Approximately twenty private colleges are also in the district including Bates in Lewiston and Colby in Waterville.

Also on the ballot this year: Maine has a senatorial contest in which Republican Susan Collins is facing a tough re-election. There is also a gubernatorial race.

No Kings rallies in the district have been very well attended.

Sign up for another event: mobilize.us/swingleft

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Key Issues

- **Tariffs:** Due to tariffs, the forest products industry is suffering, consumer costs have risen, and trade with Canada is negatively affected.
 - **Economy:** DOGE cuts that have harmed local residents include the loss of \$1 million in grants to Maine Organic Gardeners and Farmers Association and USDA cutbacks affecting local farmers and seafood distributors.
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About the Candidates

Due to the retirement of Rep. Jared Golden, there is no incumbent. We'll know more after the primary election on June 9. Until then, we have identified these frontrunners:

Joe Baldacci | Democratic Frontrunner

State Senator **Joe Baldacci** grew up in Bangor where he worked at his family's restaurant, Momma Baldacci's. A lawyer representing small businesses, he has also served on the Bangor City Council. First elected to the Maine State Senate in 2020, Joe has voted to restore Medicare subsidies, supported a \$6 million increase in funding for Maine's family planning services, earning him a 100% rating from Planned Parenthood, and led the charge on legislation to lower property taxes and keep Mainers in their homes. He lives in Bangor with his wife, Beth; they have two adult daughters.

Jordan Wood | Democratic Frontrunner

The son of a teacher and a pastor, **Jordan Wood**, was born and raised in ME-02. He holds a bachelor's degree from Calvin College and is married to his husband, Jake Lipsett, with whom he is raising a daughter. Formerly the chief of staff for Rep. Katie Porter's (D, CA-47), Wood also served as the Vice President of End Citizens United, which seeks to get big money out of politics. He co-founded democracyFIRST, a bipartisan organization dedicated to ensuring free and fair elections. If elected, he pledges to make sweeping campaign finance reform his first priority. Others are rooting out corruption, reforming SCOTUS, reducing the influence of lobbyists, and forming a bipartisan committee to investigate the Epstein files.

Matthew Dunlap, Maine's State Auditor and previously Secretary of State, is also running, as is **Paige Loud**, a social worker.

Paul LePage | Republican Candidate

Paul LePage was the governor of Maine from 2011-19. During that time he enacted a large tax cut, decreased the state's unemployment rate, and authorized the second largest fine in Maine's history for an oil spill. While in office, he was sued for refusing to expand Medicaid which the voters had approved. He's been accused of making racist remarks, and is pro-Trump. During his terms, he refused to work with Democrats, vetoing a total of 642 bills. He holds viciously anti-immigrant views, claiming that immigrants "bring in tuberculosis and AIDS."

The contrast: In an election cycle in which voters are demanding accountability, the Democratic candidates are prepared and eager to take on the corruption and incompetence of Trump's second term. LePage, however, is only prepared to rubber-stamp the MAGA agenda while spouting inflammatory rhetoric, ensuring yet more economic and political upheaval in the back half of Trump's chaotic presidency..