

VEST ME 2016

State: Maine

Organization: Voting and Election Science Team (VEST)

Summary of Races included: President [General]

Date File Updated: 01/06/2020

Date Report Updated: 01/06/2022

RDH Validation Code (Github): <https://github.com/nonpartisan-redistricting-datahub/pdv-me>

RDH Criteria	Explanation
<p>Is all raw data available?</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Accessible files:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VEST ME 16 data file <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed 07/08/21, Source: VEST ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DV/N/NH5S2I/CHOCIN&version=62.0 ● VEST ME 16 documentation file <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 07/27/21, Source: VEST ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=4863153&version=62.0 ● ME Precinct-Level Election Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 07/08/21, Source: ME Secretary of State ○ https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/results/results16-17.html#tally ● ME Voting Precincts 2016 Shapefile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 07/13/21, Source: U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Redistricting Data Program Phase 2 release ○ https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/pvs/partnership19v2/st23_me.html ○ Note: Up to 5 downloaded at a time ● Auburn Election Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 07/27/21 ○ https://www.auburnmaine.gov/CMSContent/City_Clerk/2016%20State%20of%20Maine%20General%20Election%20Official.pdf ● Augusta Election Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 07/27/21

- [https://cms6.revize.com/revize/augustame/docs/Elections/NOVEMBER_8_2016 - CITY OF AUGUSTA%20-%20ELECTION%20RESULTS.pdf](https://cms6.revize.com/revize/augustame/docs/Elections/NOVEMBER_8_2016_-_CITY_OF_AUGUSTA%20-%20ELECTION%20RESULTS.pdf)
- Belfast Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/27/21
 - <https://www.cityofbelfast.org/DocumentCenter/View/1815/City-Clerks-Return-Election-Results-Certified?bidId=>
- Biddeford Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/27/21
 - <https://www.biddefordmaine.org/DocumentCenter/View/180/November-8-2016---State-General-and-Referendum-Election-and-Municipal-Referendum-Charter-Revisions-Election-PDF>
- Ellsworth Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/27/21
 - <https://www.ellsworthmaine.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/11-8-16-Official-Election-Results.pdf>
- Gorham Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/27/21
 - <https://www.gorham-me.org/town-clerk/pages/2016-elections>
- Harpswell Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/14/21
 - Email from town. File available upon request.
- Lewiston Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/27/21
 - <https://www.lewistonmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6818/11-08-2016--General-Election-Results?bidId=>
- Portland Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/13/21
 - Email from town. File available upon request.
- Saco Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/27/21
 - <https://www.sacomaine.org/11-8-16%20State%20General%20&%20Referendum%20Election.pdf>
- Sanford Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/27/21
 - https://www.sanfordmaine.org/vertical/sites/%7B9A3D3C8D-76EE-4CC5-B86E-C19FDBF5E473%7D/uploads/OFFICIAL_Election_Tally_for_Nov_8_2016.pdf
- South Portland Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/27/21
 - Email from town. File available upon request.

- Westbrook Election Results
 - Accessed: 07/27/21
 - <https://www.westbrookmaine.com/DocumentCenter/View/1538/Westbrook-Official-Results---20161108?bidId=>
 - Biddeford Shapefile
 - Accessed: 07/20/21
 - <https://www.biddefordmaine.org/2522/GIS-Data-Catalog>
 - Ellsworth Shapefile
 - Accessed: 07/20/21
 - <https://www.ellsworthmaine.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Detailled-Ellsworth-Election-Ward-Map-as-of-October-2020.pdf>
 - Only PDF maps available
 - Gorham Shapefile
 - Accessed: 07/20/21
 - https://www.gorham-me.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4456/f/uploads/voting_ward_map.pdf
 - Only PDF maps available
- Inaccessible files:**
- Harpswell Shapefile
 - No Precinct Map available

Processing steps available?

Yes

Description of processing steps:

- The full processing steps can be accessed at the link above and were accessed on 07/27/21. Part of the documentation is copied below:
 - Election results by township from Maine Bureau of Corporations, Elections & Commissions (<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/results/index.html>)
 - Election results by ward from municipal reports for Auburn, Augusta, Belfast, Biddeford, Ellsworth, Gorham, Harpswell, Lewiston, Portland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, Westbrook.
 - Precinct shapefiles primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Redistricting Data Program Phase 2 release. Voting District shapefiles were available for Androscoggin, Cumberland, Kennebec, Sagadahoc, Waldo, York. County Subdivision shapefiles were used instead for Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington.
 - The state reported 987 votes from Portland for Jill Stein (G). The precinct-level votes in the Portland city report add up to 995 total votes for Stein.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation also includes a list where absentee votes were reported at the township level. • We were able to distribute absentee votes based on processing steps and perform the merges, when we had a county shapefile. For some splits, we could visually confirm them, but did not perform them. <p><u>Information not in their processing steps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of name changes for precincts.. • List of assigned unorganized townships that were assigned to nearby incorporated townships.
<p>Able to replicate joining election data and shapefiles?</p> <p>No</p>	<p>No, we were unable to replicate joining election data and shapefiles because we did not have a list of precinct name changes or shapefiles for every township. However, we were able to join 581 out of 609 precincts. 25 of these were zero vote precincts.</p> <p>For some townships, we were unable to locate a shapefile, but could find a precinct map. For these townships, we took a quick look to see if the precinct names appeared to match the election results.</p> <p>For Harpswell we were unable to find a precinct map.</p>
<p>Able to replicate joining demographic data to block-level shapefiles?</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>There is no demographic data on the file.</p>
<p>Able to replicate joining boundary data?</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>There is no boundary data on the file.</p>

Successfully
ran validation?

No

Election results: No

- We validated the election results at the state, county and precinct levels.
- At the state-level, candidate vote totals did not match for write-in votes and were off by 616 votes. This difference is most likely due to VEST not adding write-in votes for Biddeford, Ellsworth, Sanford, or South Portland. VEST also added write-in votes for Lewiston and Portland that we were unable to find in the town files. You can find links to the sources above. Race totals matched besides write-in votes for the Presidential race.
 - It appears as though VEST did not add in these write-in votes, because all write-in votes are not available in the state precinct file. Their “G16PREOOTH - Write-in Votes” column might more accurately be called “G16PREOOTH - Darrell L Castle, Cherunda L. Fox, Laurence J.Kotlikoff, and David Evan McMullin”.
- VEST notes a 8 vote difference from what the state reports (<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/results/results16-17.html#tally>) and what Portland city reports for Jill Stein. We found this same difference. VEST’s totals match the state report otherwise.
- At the county-level, candidate vote totals did not match. There was a 1 vote difference in Jill Stein’s votes, likely due to absentee allocation and differences in write-in votes, due to the above. We were unable to locate a state county canvass report to compare these against.
- At the precinct-level candidate vote totals did not match. One of the differences was due to VEST swapping vote totals between South Thomaston and St. George, which we’ve informed VEST of. Other differences appear to be due to the write-in differences listed above and absentee allocation differences.

Geographies: No

- We were not able to fully validate the geographies, as we did not have shapefile data for every township
- 396 precincts w/ a difference of 0 km²
 - 82 precincts w/ a difference between 0 and 0.1 km²
 - 8 precincts w/ a difference between 0.1 and 0.5 km²
 - 4 precincts w/ a difference between 0.5 and 1 km²
 - 3 precincts w/ a difference between 1 and 2 km²
 - 0 precincts w/ a difference between 2 and 5 km²
 - 37 precincts w/ a difference greater than 5 km²
- VEST talks about a number of shapefile changes that we did not carry out that could explain most of these differences. The notebook contains a print out of all differences larger than 5km².
- We were unable to find a precinct shapefile or map for Harpswell.

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