

## VEST ME 2018

**State:** Maine

**Organization:** Voting and Election Science Team (VEST)

**Summary of Races included:** Governor, U.S. Senate [General]

**Date File Updated:** 01/06/2020

**Date Report Updated:** 07/28/2021

**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><b><u>Accessible files:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VEST ME 18 data file <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessed 07/08/21, Source: VEST</li> <li>○ <a href="https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/UBKYRU/7TPDT9&amp;version=41.0">https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/UBKYRU/7TPDT9&amp;version=41.0</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● VEST ME 18 documentation file <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessed: 07/08/21, Source: VEST</li> <li>○ <a href="https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=4863187&amp;version=41.0">https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=4863187&amp;version=41.0</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● ME Precinct-Level Election Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessed: 07/08/21, Source: ID Secretary of State</li> <li>○ <a href="https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/results/results18.html#nonrcv">https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/results/results18.html#nonrcv</a></li> <li>○ File names: governor11-6-18.xls and us-senate11-6-18.xls (available upon request)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● ME Voting Precincts 2018 Shapefile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessed: 07/13/21, Source: U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Redistricting Data Program Phase 2 release</li> <li>○ <a href="https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/pvs/partnership19v2/st23_me.html">https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/pvs/partnership19v2/st23_me.html</a></li> <li>○ Note: Up to 5 downloaded at a time</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Auburn Election Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessed: 07/08/21</li> <li>○ <a href="https://www.auburnmaine.gov/CMSContent/City_Clerk/OFFICIAL%20RESULTS%20-%20BY%20WARD.pdf">https://www.auburnmaine.gov/CMSContent/City_Clerk/OFFICIAL%20RESULTS%20-%20BY%20WARD.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Augusta Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/09/21
  - Email from town. File available upon request.
- Belfast Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - <https://www.cityofbelfast.org/DocumentCenter/View/3466/City-Clerks-Return-Election-Results-by-Ward?bidId=>
- Biddeford Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - <https://www.biddefordmaine.org/DocumentCenter/View/4110/November-6-2018-State-General--Referendum-Election>
- Ellsworth Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - <https://www.ellsworthmaine.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/11-6-2018-Ellsworth-Election-Tally-Sheets.pdf>
- Gorham Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - [https://www.gorham-me.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4456/f/uploads/november\\_6\\_2018\\_state\\_election\\_results.pdf](https://www.gorham-me.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4456/f/uploads/november_6_2018_state_election_results.pdf)
- Harpswell Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/14/21
  - Email from town. File available upon request.
- Lewiston Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9626/November-6-2018-General-and-Referendum-Election-Results?bidId=>
- Portland Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/13/21
  - Email from town. File available upon request.
- Saco Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - <https://www.sacomaine.org/City%20Clerk/Elections/Saco%20-%20Official%20Election%20Results.pdf>
- Sanford Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - [https://www.sanfordmaine.org/vertical/sites/%7B9A3D3C8D-76EE-4CC5-B86E-C19FDBF5E473%7D/uploads/OFFICIAL\\_Tally\\_Nov\\_6\\_2018.pdf](https://www.sanfordmaine.org/vertical/sites/%7B9A3D3C8D-76EE-4CC5-B86E-C19FDBF5E473%7D/uploads/OFFICIAL_Tally_Nov_6_2018.pdf)

- South Portland Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - [https://www.southportland.org/files/9215/4172/0820/OFFICIAL\\_RESULTS\\_STATE\\_11-06-18.pdf](https://www.southportland.org/files/9215/4172/0820/OFFICIAL_RESULTS_STATE_11-06-18.pdf)
- Westbrook Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - <https://www.westbrookmaine.com/DocumentCenter/View/1533/Westbrook-Official-Election-Results---20181106?bidId=>
- UOCAVA Election Results
  - Accessed: 07/08/21
  - <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/UOCAVA-ROVC.pdf>
- 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/Detailed-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/vyhlif4456/f/uploads/voting\\_ward\\_map.pdf](https://www.gorham-me.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4456/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 07/08/21. 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ The state reported 4930 votes from Gorham for Angus King (I). The precinct-level votes in the Gorham city report add up to 4530 total votes for King. The state reported 4201 votes from Portland for Eric Brakey (R). The precinct-level votes in the Portland city report add up to 4200 total votes for Brakey.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Documentation also includes a list where absentee votes were reported at the township level.</li> <li>● 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.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Information not in their processing steps:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List of name changes for precincts between election results and VEST's file.</li> <li>● List of assigned unorganized townships that were assigned to nearby incorporated townships.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Able to replicate joining election data and shapefiles?</b></p> <p><b>No</b></p>	<p>No, we were unable to replicate joining election data and shapefiles, as we did not have the shapefiles for every part of the state. 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>For the areas where we did have a shapefile, we were able to join 525 precincts, with 75 precinct geometries and 56 election results precincts unjoined. After combining wards in the handful of places where we could locate a ward map, this reached 528.</p>
<p><b>Able to replicate joining demographic data to</b></p>	<p>There is no demographic data on the file.</p>

<p>block-level shapefiles?</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>Able to replicate joining boundary data?</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>There is no boundary data on the file.</p>
<p>Successfully ran validation?</p> <p>No</p>	<p><b><u>Election results:</u> No</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We attempted to validate the election results at the state, county and precinct levels.</li> <li>• VEST notes a 400 vote difference from what the state reports and what Gorham city reports. We found this same difference and have notified Maine's election office.</li> <li>• The state reported 4930 votes from Gorham for Angus King (I). The precinct-level votes in the Gorham city report add up to 4530 total votes for King. The state reported 4201 votes from Portland for Eric Brakey (R). The precinct-level votes in the Portland city report add up to 4200 total votes for Brakey. An Email has been sent to Maine's election office.</li> <li>• At the state-level, candidate vote totals did not match and were off by 16 votes. This difference is most likely due to 16 write-in votes from Lewiston that VEST counts that we did not see when looking at Lewiston election results. You can find a link to the source above. Race totals matched besides write-in votes for the Governor's race and Senate race.</li> <li>• At the county-level, candidate vote totals did not match. VEST had assigned changed the county assignments for a handful of precincts. After verifying and performing these changes, the totals matched except for the 16 votes mentioned above.</li> <li>• At the precinct-level, we were able to join all 581 precincts to VEST's election results. There were 27 zero-vote precincts in VEST file that were not present in the election results. For the precincts we joined, candidate vote totals matched exactly in the 567 of 581 precincts. 6 of the precincts with differences had differences due to allocation methods, while the other 8 had differences stemming from the missing 16 votes mentioned above.</li> </ul>

Geographies: **No**

- We were not able to fully validate the geographies, as we did not have shapefile data for every township
- For the counties where we did have shapefile data, we were able to validate 528 precincts. There were 581 total precincts in VEST's file. Of the 528 precincts we were able to compare:
  - 392 precincts w/ a difference of 0 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 82 precincts w/ a difference between 0 and 0.1 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 9 precincts w/ a difference between 0.1 and 0.5 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 4 precincts w/ a difference between 0.5 and 1 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 3 precincts w/ a difference between 1 and 2 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 1 precincts w/ a difference between 2 and 5 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 37 precincts w/ a difference greater than 5 km<sup>2</sup>
- 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 5km<sup>2</sup>.
- We were unable to find a precinct shapefile or map for Harpswell.