



**Survey of Maine Likely Voters
Aug. 28 to Sept. 14, 2026**

N = 650 Maine likely voters

The sample has an adjusted margin of error of +/-4.66 percentage points, adjusted for design effects.

See <http://uml.edu/polls> for full questionnaire/topline results and detailed methodology disclosure.

Survey design and analysis by John Cluverius, director of survey research, and Rodrigo Castro Cornejo, associate director, University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion.

Do you have a question about this poll? If so, reach out to us on social media via Bluesky or Instagram (@umlcpo)

HIGHLIGHTS

Jackson slightly ahead of Collins, 48% to 43%, Pingree ahead of Charles, 49% to 38%

In one of the nation's most competitive U.S. Senate races, former Maine state Senate president Troy Jackson slightly leads incumbent U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, 48% to 43%, according to a new poll by the University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion and YouGov. One percent of respondents said they will vote for another candidate, 6% say they are undecided, and 1% say they will not vote.

The poll reveals a dynamic political environment that presents rough conditions for Collins, the only U.S. Senate candidate in 2020 to win in a state that her party's presidential candidate lost. President Donald Trump's approval rating in Maine is 37%, while 64% disapprove of the job he is doing as president. Seventy-two percent of respondents say the country is on the wrong track, while 28% say the country is headed in the right direction. Comparatively, Maine Gov. Janet Mills has a 50% job approval rating, while 50% disapprove of the job she is doing as governor.

In the race for governor, former state Rep. Hannah Pingree leads Bobby Charles, 49% to 38%, while 1% of respondents say they will vote for another candidate, 2% say they will not vote and 10% of respondents are undecided.

78% of Mainers blame Trump administration policies for higher fuel and utility prices

More than three-quarters of Maine likely voters in the poll say that the war in Iran (61%) or tariffs (17%) is the factor most responsible for higher fuel and utility prices. Nine percent of

respondents name gas taxes as most responsible for pain at the meter and the pump, 6% say environmental regulations, 2% say canceled solar energy projects, and 4% say AI data centers.

The war in Iran garners low support from Mainers, with 71% of respondents saying the government spends too much on it, while only 22% say the country is spending the right amount, and 7% say it is spending too little. Sixty-four percent oppose additional military aid to Israel, while 36% support it.

Sixty-three percent of poll respondents say that it has become somewhat or much harder to pay for basic necessities in the last six months, while 29% say things have stayed about the same, and 8% say it's gotten easier.

Mainers opposed to AI

Opposition to data centers supporting computers used for Artificial Intelligence (AI) remains high in Maine. Seventy-six percent of respondents, including a majority of all demographic groups in the survey, oppose construction of an AI data center in their community. Notably, the percentage of respondents strongly opposed is slightly more than those who said they were strongly opposed when asked the same question in a UMass Lowell/YouGov poll released in June, which showed 51% were strongly opposed. Now, 58% of Mainers strongly oppose building an AI data center in their community.

This is translating into meaningful policy opposition, as well. Fifty-five percent of respondents support a statewide ban on building new data centers or expanding existing ones, while 45% oppose such a ban. Also, 58% of respondents support a ban on automated license plate reader cameras in their community, while 42% oppose a ban.