



Amending the Maine Constitution The Process:

Constitution States:

Pathway 1: (Legislature)

“The Legislature, whenever 2/3 of both Houses shall deem it necessary, may propose amendments to this Constitution; and when any amendments shall be so agreed upon, a resolution shall be passed and sent to the selectmen of the several towns, and the assessors of the several plantations, empowering and directing them to notify the inhabitants of their respective towns and plantations, in the manner prescribed by law, at the next biennial meetings in the month of November, or to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of Senators and Representatives, on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the passage of said resolve, to give in their votes on the question, whether such amendment shall be made; and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of such amendment, it shall become a part of this Constitution.”

Pathway 2: (Convention)

“The Legislature shall, by a 2/3 concurrent vote of both branches, have the power to call constitutional conventions, for the purpose of amending this Constitution.”

What this means in practice:

Pathway 1: (Legislature)

- Step 1: Amendment approved by two-thirds of both Houses (154 House, 35 Senate members, total).
- Step 2: Amendment is presented to the voters at the next election of Senators and Representatives.
- Step 3: Amendment is voted in favor of by a majority of voters.

Pathway 2: (Convention)

- Step 1: A constitutional convention may be called by two-thirds vote of both branches.