

# Maine Senate

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## THE ISSUES

**SUSAN  
COLLINS**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



**SARA  
GIDEON**

DEMOCRAT

See <a href="#">Guides.vote</a> for online guides with links and sources	Volunteer for Susan Collins <a href="https://susancollins.com">susancollins.com</a>	Volunteer for Sara Gideon <a href="https://saragideon.com">saragideon.com</a>
<b>ABORTION</b> Legal or ban?	Mixed. <a href="#">Condemned Alabama law banning most abortions</a> . However, voted to confirm Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who wrote in a 2017 judicial opinion that <a href="#">“the Government has permissible interests in favoring fetal life.”</a>	Legal. Calls self <a href="#">“a strong and vocal advocate for protecting and expanding access to women’s reproductive care.”</a> Co-sponsored legislation to <a href="#">require Maine’s Medicaid program to support abortion services</a> .
<b>AFFORDABLE CARE ACT</b> Support Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare?	Mixed. Backed <a href="#">budget plan that would have ended ACA</a> . But <a href="#">voted against repeal of ACA</a> . <a href="#">Urged Atty. Gen. William Barr</a> to defend ACA.	Yes. <a href="#">“The best system for us to build on is the Affordable Care Act.”</a> In Maine House, <a href="#">“repeatedly supported efforts to expand Medicaid”</a> under ACA.
<b>CAMPAIGN FINANCE</b> Require more disclosure about sources of campaign financing? Overturn Citizens United decision allowing corporations and unions unlimited political spending?	Mixed. Voters “have the right to know who is contributing,” but called <a href="#">DISCLOSE Act “a partisan bill that would not fix the real problem.”</a> Did not support constitutional amendment <a href="#">to roll back Citizens United</a> .	Yes. Backs legislation that <a href="#">would require disclosure of dark-money donors</a> . Supports passing <a href="#">the DISCLOSE Act and constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United</a> .
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat? Address as top priority by taxing or limiting output of greenhouse gases?	Mixed. Co-sponsored <a href="#">Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act</a> . <a href="#">Joined</a> Climate Solutions Caucus. Voted <a href="#">to support Keystone XL pipeline construction</a> to transport Canadian tar sands oil to U.S. refineries.	Yes. “One of the most urgent challenges we face.” Co-sponsored bill to <a href="#">“limit greenhouse gas pollution.”</a> <a href="#">Committed</a> to rejoining Paris Agreement. Calls <a href="#">“bold and immediate action on climate change”</a> a top priority.
<b>COVID-19</b> Favor administration’s COVID response?	Yes. <a href="#">“The President did a lot that was right in the beginning.”</a>	No. Accused President Trump of <a href="#">slowing delivery of relief for political gain</a> .
<b>COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE</b> Support administration’s economic response to coronavirus pandemic?	<a href="#">Co-authored Paycheck Protection Program</a> ; calls for additional \$250 billion. Supports <a href="#">COVID-19 funding for education</a> .	Calls for support of various sectors during the pandemic, including <a href="#">the lobster industry</a> , <a href="#">local governments</a> , and <a href="#">farmers</a> .
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Tighten or loosen environmental protections?	Mixed. Supported environmental protections such as <a href="#">preventing Arctic National Wildlife Refuge drilling</a> . However, <a href="#">opposed Obama designation of Maine’s Katahdin region as national monument</a> .	Tighten. <a href="#">Calls</a> environmental stewardship “deeply important to our livelihoods.” <a href="#">Voted</a> to ban foam containers and single-use plastic bags. Introduced <a href="#">water quality bill</a> to protect tribal sustenance fishing.
<b>FINANCIAL REGULATION</b> Tighten or loosen oversight of banks and credit card companies?	Loosen. Voted to <a href="#">repeal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule</a> allowing class action suits against banks & credit card companies.	No position found.
<b>GAY RIGHTS</b> Support same-sex marriage?	Yes. <a href="#">Supported same-sex marriage</a> before Supreme Court decision. Supported same-sex <a href="#">veterans’ benefits</a> . Opposed Trump <a href="#">judicial nominee</a> over record on gay rights.	Yes. <a href="#">Calls for</a> “supporting LGBTQ+ people everywhere.” Opposed Trump <a href="#">judicial nominee</a> Lawrence VanDyke because of his opposition to marriage equality.

ISSUES	COLLINS (R)	GIDEON (D)
<b>GUN CONTROL</b> Enact more restrictive legislation on firearms?	Yes. <a href="#">Supported</a> background checks bill and assault weapons ban. Reintroduced <a href="#">“red flag” bill</a> to “prevent individuals posing a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing firearms.”	Yes. Supports <a href="#">“universal background checks and red flag laws.”</a> Co-sponsored a “red flag” bill, prohibiting guns from <a href="#">“extremely dangerous and suicidal individuals.”</a>
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> Create a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, including “Dreamers” brought to U.S. as children?	Yes. Co-sponsored bipartisan legislation <a href="#">to provide a path to citizenship for “Dreamers.”</a>	Yes. Urged Maine’s congressional delegation <a href="#">to support the DREAM Act</a> , with conditional legal status for undocumented youth.
<b>IMPEACHMENT</b> Support U.S. Senate calling witnesses and voting to convict President Trump?	Mixed. Was <a href="#">one of two Republican senators</a> to vote to hear witnesses, but <a href="#">subsequently voted to acquit Trump</a> .	Yes. By not calling witnesses, the Senate failed to provide <a href="#">“the fair impeachment trial that Mainers and Americans deserved.”</a>
<b>IRAN</b> Oppose military attacks on Iran without congressional approval?	Mixed. <a href="#">“I believe the strike that killed Soleimani was justified</a> , but that sustained hostilities committing American troops would require congressional approval.”	No. The administration must explain <a href="#">“the imminent threat facing American soldiers</a> and why [a strike is] absolutely necessary. ... Congress must provide oversight.”
<b>LABOR</b> Support strengthening the rights of unions?	No. <a href="#">Voted</a> to advance President Trump’s nomination of anti-union lawyer Eugene Scalia to head Department of Labor. Given <a href="#">lowest rating</a> by <a href="#">AFL-CIO for record on labor rights</a> .	Yes. <a href="#">Co-sponsored</a> Maine House bill to require public employers to grant unions right to meet with and get information on employees. <a href="#">Endorsed</a> by major Maine labor unions.
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Decriminalize or legalize?	Mostly no. <a href="#">Does not “support a national, federal effort to decriminalize.”</a> Would allow <a href="#">VA doctors to recommend cannabis for veterans where legal</a> .	Yes. <a href="#">Voted in 2018 for legislation to implement and regulate legalization in Maine</a> , approved by popular vote in 2016, and to override Governor Page’s veto.
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Raise federal hourly minimum wage above current \$7.25?	Mixed. In 2014, <a href="#">voted against bill to raise federal minimum wage</a> to \$10.10 an hour. Led failed effort to <a href="#">negotiate a compromise</a> for a smaller raise.	Yes. In 2018, <a href="#">successfully opposed push to repeal minimum-wage increase</a> passed by Maine voters in 2016. <a href="#">Supports raising federal minimum to \$15</a> .
<b>PLANNED PARENTHOOD</b> Should Planned Parenthood receive public funds for non-abortion-related care?	Mixed. <a href="#">Has opposed efforts to defund Planned Parenthood</a> . But in 2015 <a href="#">voted to defund</a> as part of a deal to secure a DOJ investigation into charges of sale of fetal tissue.	Yes. Fully fund so Mainers <a href="#">“have access to the health care they need.”</a> Sponsored bill <a href="#">to replace \$3 million in lost federal funding</a> for family planning.
<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</b> Support free or subsidized tuition for lower-income individuals and lower interest on student loans?	Yes. Co-sponsored legislation to <a href="#">fund need-based grants to low-income students</a> and to <a href="#">allow employers to help pay employee student debt</a> .	Yes. Will work to “lower the cost of college and <a href="#">tackle the student loan debt crisis</a> .” Sponsored education funds for low-income adults with minor children.
<b>SUPREME COURT</b> Supported Brett Kavanaugh nomination?	Yes. <a href="#">Voted</a> in Senate to confirm Kavanaugh. In July 2019 said, <a href="#">“I do not regret my vote in the least.”</a>	No. Said Collins’ pro-Kavanaugh vote <a href="#">“put women’s control over their own health care decisions in extreme jeopardy.”</a>
<b>TAXES</b> Support administration’s \$1.9 trillion (2017) tax cuts?	Yes. Voted for Trump tax cuts, saying they would bring <a href="#">“good jobs and greater economic growth.”</a>	No. <a href="#">Called</a> 2017 Trump tax cut a “nearly \$2 trillion tax break for big corporations and the wealthiest families in America” which “did little for families in Maine.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: [Lisa Savage \(Ind.\)](#) is also running. Due to limited space, we can only include candidates polling 15%, but [do check out her website](#). [Campus Election Engagement Project](#) is a nonpartisan effort to help colleges engage students in elections. Sources include [Votesmart.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#) and candidate statements. [Vote411.org](#) and [Ballotready.org](#) offer guides to local races.