

FAQ

What is the Maine Citizens' Assembly on Education Priorities?

The Maine Citizens' Assembly on Education Priorities is a structured public deliberation that brings together a representative group of Maine residents from all 16 counties to learn about the state's education landscape, deliberate across differences, and identify shared education priorities. The assembly is designed to generate informed, policy-relevant public judgment that can be considered by state and local decision-makers.

Who are the delegates and how are they chosen?

Delegates are Maine residents aged 16-years+ selected to reflect the state's diversity. Delegates are selected from a volunteer pool using stratified *random selection* to ensure balance across rural and urban communities, age, educational attainment, gender, race/ethnicity, and political leaning. Together, delegates bring a wide range of lived experiences and perspectives. Where needed, CEPARE will reach out to community organizations to support targeted recruitment efforts.

What role do stakeholder organizations play?

Stakeholder organizations participate as collaborators, not as decision-makers. They contribute educational materials and participate in opportunities for dialogue that inform delegates, while citizen delegates retain full responsibility for deliberation, prioritization, and recommendations.

How is balance across perspectives supported?

Balance across perspectives is supported through curated panels with moderation guidelines and learning materials vetted as a whole by stakeholder organizations comprising the MEPRI steering committee who are willing to serve in this capacity, as well as an advisory panel of high school teachers. Our goal is to ensure delegates are exposed to a range of concerns and perspectives on education issues in Maine.

How is deliberative technology used, and how do stakeholder organizations interact with it?

Deliberative technology is used to support delegates' structured engagement, documentation of assembly processes, and synthesis of input at defined points in the process. Stakeholder organizations may be invited to review draft policy proposals and action options, respond to structured prompts, and provide written feedback through the platform. Input is collected in a standardized format, synthesized by AI with human oversight, and returned to delegates for further consideration. The platform is not used for open-ended advocacy or real-time debate and does not enable organizations to participate in delegate deliberations or decision-making. [Comhairle](#) is the main platform supporting the assembly.

What the deadlines and who should we contact with questions or interest in participating?

By April 1, organizations interested in collaborating or learning more about participation opportunities.

By May 1, individuals wishing to volunteering to serve as a delegate. (May 10 notification date.)

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