

U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE COMPARISON - MAINE

A Nonpartisan Resource for Voters in the 2024 Election

Catholic Social Justice teaches that we have a responsibility to participate in politics out of a concern for and commitment to the common good. We are called to engage with openness and empathy, inform ourselves about the issues of the day, partake in serious conversations about our nation’s future, and **vote**.

Here is where the Maine U.S. Senate candidates stand on the issues.
 We invite you to consider this information prayerfully.

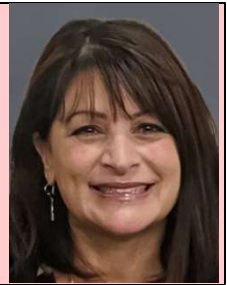
To learn more and make your voting plan, head to networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter.



Angus King
Independent
Incumbent
angusformaine.com

Election Day:
Tuesday,
November 5th

Demi Kouzounas
Republican
demiforsenate.com



FREEDOM TO LIVE ON A HEALTHY PLANET	<p>Yes. “We are <u>fiddling</u> while the planet burns.” <u>Supports</u> “clean energy;” “decarbonizing;” investing in “new energy solutions” and “<u>electric vehicles</u>.” <u>Voted</u> to limit methane emissions from the oil and gas sector.</p>	<p>Environment Should addressing climate change be a top priority?</p>	<p>No. Opposes wind energy: “Each ... <u>wind turbine</u> in the ocean leaks about 80 gallons of oil a year and their tops spin ... at 200 miles an hour;” harming birds, ocean life, fishermen, lobstermen. In 2019 <u>opposed</u> an executive order on carbon reduction.</p>
	<p>Increase. <u>Voted for</u> the 2023 infrastructure bill, <u>providing</u> \$271 million for expansion of Maine’s broadband services. <u>Supported</u> an appropriation bill funding shipbuilding in Maine. Authored a <u>bill</u> helping small businesses <u>weather</u> COVID.</p>	<p>Economy Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?</p>	<p>Mostly decrease. Wants to bring jobs back by adding “a little bit more tariffs.” <u>Would remove</u> some “red tape” to boost housing construction. Says Biden keeps “<u>throwing money</u> into the economy” and “is creating more inflation.”</p>
FREEDOM FROM HARM	<p>Tighten. <u>Sponsored</u> a bill <u>regulating</u> semi-automatic firearms with exemptions for self-defense and hunting. <u>Voted</u> to implement <u>red flag</u> laws, expand background checks, and close the “boyfriend loophole.”</p>	<p>Gun Laws Loosen or tighten gun regulations?</p>	<p>Loosen. People <u>buy guns</u> “to defend their homes” and “protect their families.” Is “very <u>concerned</u> with gun rights.” In 2019 <u>criticized</u> Democrats for “wanting to... jail law abiding gun owners.”</p>
	<p>Expand. <u>Sponsored</u> a bill <u>banning discrimination</u> against LGBTQ couples looking to adopt and protecting LGBTQ children in foster care. <u>Sponsored</u> a bill protecting LGBTQ adults from discrimination in employment, housing, access to credit, and other areas.</p>	<p>LGBTQ Rights Limit or expand rights for LGBTQ+ people?</p>	<p>Unclear. “From where I sit, <u>adults</u> can do what they wish” and “they can be with whoever they want.” “One of my best friends... is a woman who is gay.” Being gay “is not an issue for me.”</p>
	<p><u>Sponsored</u> a measure designating “National Police Week.” <u>Supported</u> funding to reduce police backlog and strengthen re-entry programs. <u>Supported</u> decreasing federal funding for localities that defund police and a <u>GOP bill</u> calling for changes in data collection.</p>	<p>Criminal Justice How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?</p>	<p><u>Respects</u> “law enforcement and the rule of law.” “We’ve <u>lost respect</u> for those that protect us.”</p>

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FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY	Increase. The Affordable Care Act, Medicare, and Medicaid “are <u>essential</u> to delivering care in rural Maine.” <u>Introduced</u> a bill improving pay for long-term caregivers. <u>Supported capping</u> insulin at \$35 and limiting Medicare participants’ out-of-pocket costs.	Health Care Increase or decrease government support for health care?	Decrease. “I’m very <u>concerned</u> about rationing of health care, which is coming.” In 2017, after voter approval of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, said the GOP will continue to <u>oppose</u> “more dependence on government.”
FREEDOM TO LIVE IN A WELCOMING COUNTRY	Mixed: <u>Supports</u> a bipartisan immigration bill to <u>address</u> border reform. <u>Introduced</u> a bill to protect “Documented [DACA] Dreamers” from deportation. “The United States is [a] <u>nation</u> of immigrants and also a nation of laws.”	Immigration Defend the right to asylum and support a path to citizenship for DACA participants brought to the U.S. as children?	Opposes: <u>Pledges</u> to “end the crisis at our southern border that is ... threatening Maine families’ safety.” <u>Calls for</u> “each state” to help deal with border issues. <u>Supports</u> expediting asylum seekers’ employment. In 2017: “DACA was an <u>unconstitutional</u> executive action from the beginning.”
FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY	Harder. “Every state has a <u>right</u> to run its own elections.” In 2020 <u>praised</u> a Maine court’s decision <u>reaffirming</u> voter ID for voter registration, requiring that only voters themselves turn in ballots, & not allowing mailed ballots to come in after election day.	Voting Rights Make voting harder or easier?	No position found.
FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES	Easier. <u>Sponsored</u> bills in 2023 and <u>2021 expanding</u> rights to organize and collective bargaining.	Labor Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Harder. Was state Republican party chair when <u>the party called</u> for “right to work” laws, which allow employees in a unionized workplace to not pay union dues.
	Raise. “I <u>support</u> the \$15 minimum wage,” although voted against a specific raise in a COVID relief bill because of “ <u>concerns</u> about” the removal of “the tip credit.”	Minimum Wage Raise federal minimum from \$7.25/hour?	No position found.
	Yes. <u>Opposed</u> a resolution <u>to block</u> Biden’s student debt relief program. In 2013 <u>sponsored</u> a bill lowering student-loan interest rates.	Student Financial Aid Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them?	No. <u>Says</u> federal spending creates inflation: “What does Biden keep on doing? ‘Well, I’m going to... forgive some more loans!’ ... That <u>costs</u> money.”
	Raise. <u>Voted</u> for a <u>15% corporate</u> minimum tax that closes “loopholes long exploited by massive corporations and the wealthiest Americans.” <u>Opposed</u> the 2017 Trump tax bill with the <u>largest</u> one-time cut in the corporate tax rate and large tax breaks for the wealthy.	Taxes Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Unclear. <u>Opposed</u> Biden’s American Rescue Plan, calling it “a \$2 trillion tax hike proposal.” In 2018 <u>was concerned</u> Democrats in Maine would spend more and raise taxes.