

# HVJ Fall 2024 Voting Guide

## US House of Representatives – District 1

Every election season, Homeless Voices for Justice (HVJ) creates educational voter material and visits several community locations to register people to vote. This year, we sent all candidates a series of questions and have published all of their answers, here.

HVJ is a grassroots organization that works for social change with, and on behalf of, people experiencing homelessness and poverty. HVJ is led by organizers who have all experienced homelessness. The founding group in Portland has existed since 1995, and we network in other locations across Maine. Our goal is to build a coalition for, and of, people experiencing homelessness and poverty throughout Maine. We seek to empower people experiencing homelessness and poverty whose perspectives are often excluded from the development of policies and programs that impact their social and economic wellbeing. Disenfranchisement, oppression, and marginalization creates this absence. Therefore, we hope to assert ourselves and our interests in Maine politics through protest, education, positive policy change and reform.

HVJ meets every Monday morning from 9:30-11:30am and is welcoming of everyone who has experienced, or is currently experiencing, homelessness.

For more information, email [HVJ@preblestreet.org](mailto:HVJ@preblestreet.org) or call 207-899-6042 with questions.

Are you registered  
to vote?

Visit [vote.org](https://vote.org) to  
register and see  
what's on your ballot



# US House of Representatives – District 1



**Ethan Alcorn**  
Independent



**Chellie Pingree**  
Democrat



**Ronald C. Russell**  
Republican



# Ethan Alcon (Independent)



- Residence: Saco, ME
- Current Position:
  - Landscaper
- Issues and Priorities:
  - Stop spending in Washington on War and Military excess, which would help reduce DEBT, and inflation.
  - Take care of our homeless because I believe we can't move forward as a nation, if ANY of us are left behind. We can do this with 19 billion dollars.
  - We have to get back to a constitutional republic with a full respect and awareness for the Constitution and Bill of Rights. I would advocate for making abortion a right, and put it as an Amendment to the Bill of Rights, even though I staunchly disagree with abortion.
  - Fix the corrupt federal agencies, and the revolving door into the associated businesses.



# Chellie Pingree (Democrat)



- Residence: North Haven, ME
- Current Position:
  - U.S. representative for Maine's 1st congressional district
- Issues and Priorities:
  - Support Ukraine
  - Abortion access
  - Inflation reduction on medications
  - Food and agriculture
  - Ceasefire in Gaza
  - Veterans
  - Military sexual trauma
  - Fast fashion pollution

Chellie Pingree did not respond to HVJ's questionnaire.

# Ronald C. Russell (Republican)



- Residence: Kennebunkport, ME
- Current Position:
  - Unknown
- Issues and Priorities:
  - Divisive Political Discourse
  - Immigration
  - Taxes
  - Energy and the economy
  - Gun control
  - Election integrity
  - Education
  - Reducing crime & supporting first responders

Ronald C. Russell did not respond to HVJ's questionnaire.

# In your opinion, what are the most urgent issues facing the state of Maine?

**Ethan Alcorn:**

"Inflation and Bloated government"

**Chellie Pingree:**

No response was received.

**Ronald C. Russell:**

No response was received.



If you were to distinguish yourself from your opponent(s) for voters, what would you highlight as three critical differences?

**Ethan Alcorn:**

"Worked with homeless in Maine , Speak Spanish, independent(not in a party)"

**Chellie Pingree:**

No response was received.

**Ronald C. Russell:**

No response was received.



# What is your plan to address the root causes of homelessness and help people experiencing homelessness in Maine find safe and stable housing?

## **Ethan Alcorn:**

"Stop military spending enough to provide money for stability and homes"

## **Chellie Pingree:**

No response was received.

## **Ronald C. Russell:**

No response was received.





Maine's Housing Choice Voucher, which currently exceeds its federally allocated budget by 5%, stopped issuing new vouchers in many parts of the state on July 19th. Do you believe there should be more funding for Maine's HCV program (Section 8)?

**Ethan Alcorn:**

"Not sure. Bit probably."

**Chellie Pingree:**

No response was received.

**Ronald C. Russell:**

No response was received.



# What is your plan for increasing affordable housing units in Maine?

**Ethan Alcorn:**

"Not sure. But there is a way, that I am sure of."

**Chellie Pingree:**

No response was received.

**Ronald C. Russell:**

No response was received.



# How do you plan to address the problem of food insecurity in Maine and ensure that Mainers have enough food to achieve an active, healthy lifestyle?

## **Ethan Alcorn:**

"Well get there. Stop spending in Washington like drunken sailors"

## **Chellie Pingree:**

No response was received.

## **Ronald C. Russell:**

No response was received.



The House version of the FARM bill will cut SNAP Benefits by \$30 billion over the next decade for people experiencing food insecurity. This cut would limit the USDA's ability to adjust SNAP benefits to the costs of a healthy diet potentially impacting 40 million people. Do you support cuts to SNAP benefits?

"No"

**Ethan Alcorn:**

**Chellie Pingree:**  
No response was received.

**Ronald C. Russell:**  
No response was received.



The opioid epidemic is one of the biggest public health crises in the state of Maine. What programs or initiatives would you support to address this issue?

**Ethan Alcorn:**

"Cut the source and then give support"

**Chellie Pingree:**

No response was received.

**Ronald C. Russell:**

No response was received.



# How do you plan to incorporate the perspectives of people with lived experience of homelessness and poverty into your policymaking?

**Ethan Alcorn:**

"I've worked with them before . believe me, I know what I'm talking about, can incorporate very easily"

**Chellie Pingree:**

No response was received.

**Ronald C. Russell:**

No response was received.

