



SPORTSMAN'S ALLIANCE of MAINE

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Press Announcement: Election 2014

Partial Announcement SAM candidates for Governor, First and Second District Congressional Races and U.S. Senate

*Endorsements for the Maine Legislative Races will be released on Friday afternoon.

August 21, 2014

Dear SAM members, press and interested parties:

As you already know we are locked in a war with the national powerhouse and anti-hunting organization, the Humane Society of the United States. We are desperately trying to save the most effective methods to hunt bear in Maine. We also know ending bear hunting is only a tiny fraction of this organizations real agenda which to someday end all hunting. We know, because they told us so.

We also understand that elections are a stressful and emotional times for candidates; but, elections are only small snapshots in time. We cannot lose focus of the overall war and the consequences if we lose. If these anti-hunting extremists are ultimately successful in November, the loss of hunting as a piece of our culture and the destruction of one of our nation's leading conservation programs will have ripple effect from Maine to California. The SAM Board understands what is at stake.

In the last six months we have built an amazing coalition of Democrats, Republicans and Unenrolled elected officials and candidates for this November's election. Because this coalition is a fragile collection representing a wide array of political interests and that this election endorsement process is, although temporary, a potential distraction that could fracture this important coalition, our Board of Directors has voted unanimously to not endorse in the Governor's race, First and Second District U.S. House of Representatives race and U.S. Senate election.

Although we have chosen to not endorse in these statewide elections we feel it is important to inform our members about the individual positions of the candidates on the issues important to firearm owners, hunters and conservationists.

More importantly, we want to extend a special Thank You to all the candidates that have stepped up to take a leadership role in opposing the November, Question one- "Bear Referendum."

Your courage is greatly appreciated!

Candidate Grades and Positions on Issues Important to SAM Members as answered on the SAM Questionnaire, Interviews and past history.

Candidates for Governor

Governor Paul LePage-Republican, Grade-A

Governor LePage receives the top grade of A. This grade was the result of answers he provided on the SAM questionnaire, a lengthy interview with the SAM Board of Directors and his actions on behalf of SAM members during his four years as governor.

*Governor LePage is a strong supporter of the Second Amendment and the rights of law abiding citizens to own firearms. He has stated he will veto any legislation he deems an infringement on the Second Amendment and he did so during his first 4-years as governor.

*Governor Lepage deserves special recognition for allowing Inland Fisheries and Wildlife personnel unfettered permission to defend and educate the public about their bear management programs and to participate without restriction in the upcoming bear referendum debate.

*He took a leadership role and was successful in repealing a saltwater fishing license that was passed in a prior legislature.

*He also supported and assisted with a change to the Land for Maine's Future Program that weighted state land purchases that contained important deer wintering areas as a "High Priority."

*In addition to these programs, his administration was very responsive to our calls and concerns; in addition, he was a strong advocate on the issues effecting veterans.

Governor LePage is a SAM member.

Congressman Michael Michaud-Democrat, Grade A-

Congressman Michael Michaud has been a long-time supporter of issues important to Maine sportsmen, gun owners and conservationists. He has worked to help fund important programs within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, including Search and Rescue and he has received the SAM endorsement in the

past. He was also an important part of the moderate Blue Dogs in Congress (Democrats that that worked for middle ground on many issues) including the protection of the Second Amendment. He is an advocate of preserving land and resources, as well as the rights of rural Mainers.

The reason Congressman Michaud received the grade of "A-", is because of his recent support of expanding background checks to "private" firearm sales. Although this policy change sounds attractive, our organization remains very concerned with the unintended consequences of such a change; including, the creation of a database of all firearm owners, massive expansion of enforcement, monitoring of law abiding citizens and the cost of such a plan.

Congressman Michaud is a strong supporter of Veterans and makes that work a priority during his service. He is a lifetime SAM member and other than his position on background checks, should be considered a good friend of SAM.

Elliot Cutler-Unenrolled or Independent, Grade- B

Elliot Cutlet is a very intelligent leader with thoughtful and sound policy solutions for many of the issues effecting sportsmen and women. He is very committed to preserving our "Maine Brand" and marketing our natural resources to non-residents as a way to attract jobs to some of our poorest rural communities. He deserves praise for making the plight of rural Maine a priority. The place we disagree is in the support of some version of a new National Park in the Millinocket region. To his credit, he is honest and vocal of his support for the Park as a way to bring jobs and hope to this region. We disagree with his position on the Park and his support of expanding background checks to private firearm sales, but respect his passion.

Elliot Cutler is a lifetime SAM member and should be considered a strong advocate for conservation, land preservation and an advocate for the proper funding of wildlife programs within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Congress-First District-U.S. House of Representatives

Congresswoman, Chellie Pingree-Democrat

*Did not respond to a request to fill out the SAM Questionnaire and SAM interview.

Isaac Misiuk-Republican, Grade A

Isaac is a young and energetic candidate that supports all the issues important to SAM members. Although he has no legislative service he appears to have a good grasp of the issues.

Richard Murphy-Unenrolled or Independent, Grade A

Richard is passionate about veterans and public service, his passion and enthusiasm to serve his country as a Congressman is genuine. He is with us on all issues and we feel he is someone that will look out for the interests of SAM members.

Congress-Second District-U.S. House of Representatives

Bruce Poliquin-Republican, Grade-A

Bruce Poliquin received the top grade of A, answering all questions in a satisfactory manner. He was particularly strong in his support of the Second Amendment and his desire to bring prosperity to the Second District. He is passionate about public service and his love of country. He should be considered a strong friend of SAM Members.

Bruce Poliquin is a SAM Member.

Senator Emily Cain, Democrat, Grade-B

Senator Cain is a very likeable and approachable public servant. She is thoughtful and pragmatic and has a reputation of working with Republicans and has often stood with sportsmen and women on key issues. She supports expanding background checks to private firearm sales and is undecided on the creation of a National Park; although, she has stated her desire to maintain traditional use access of any land designated a new National Park.

Blaine Richardson-Unenrolled or Independent, Grade A

Blaine is strong advocate of the Second Amendment and an unwavering supporter of the Armed Services. He is a veteran himself and is proud of his service. He answered all questions in a satisfactory way and should be considered a friend of SAM members.

United States Senate

Senator Collins-Republican

*Did not respond to a request to fill out the SAM Questionnaire and SAM interview.

Shenna Bellows-Democrat

*Did not respond to a request to fill out the SAM Questionnaire and SAM interview.

Shenna Bellows is a SAM Member

*All of the candidates listed above oppose the upcoming November, Question 1, Bear Referendum, except, Senator Collins did not respond to the question and Congresswoman Pingree took a neutral position.