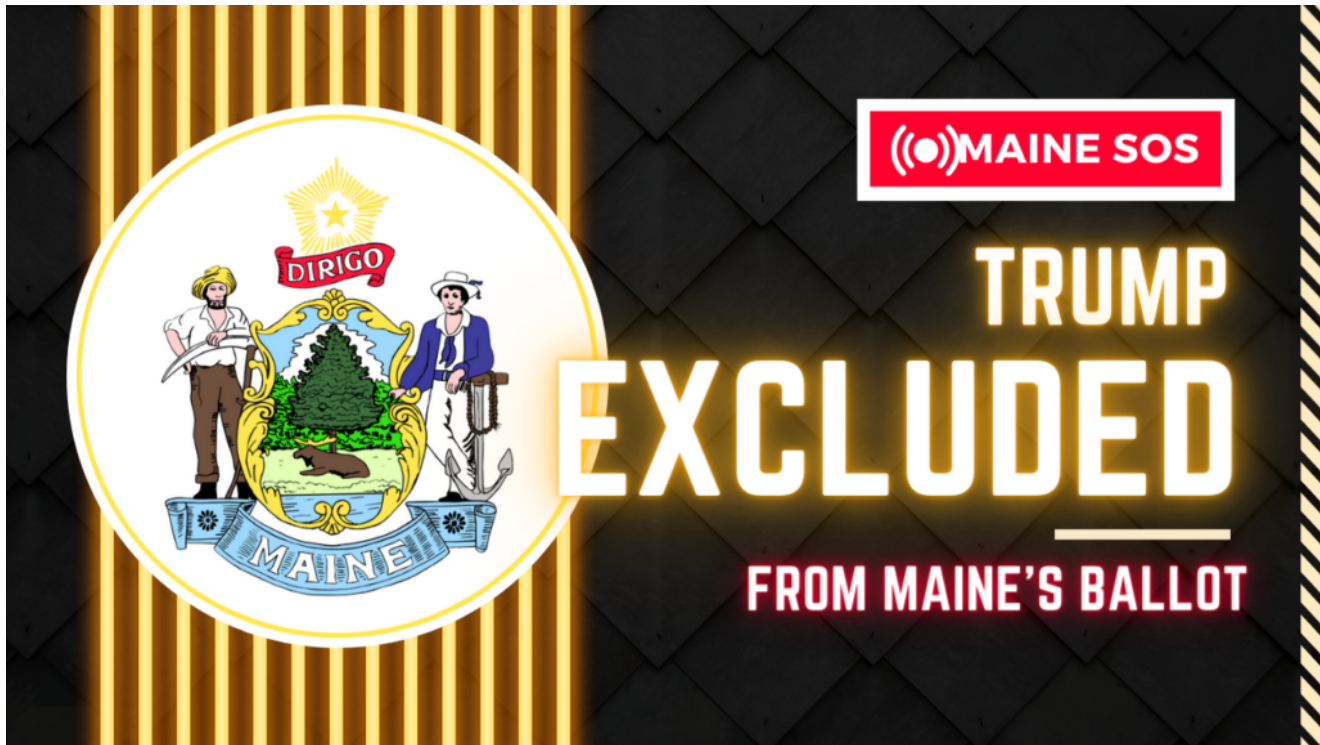


Maine election officer excludes Trump from ballot

cnav.news/2023/12/29/news/maine-election-officer-excludes-trump-ballot/

By Terry A. Hurlbut

December 29, 2023



Yesterday Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State for Maine, unilaterally excluded President Donald J. Trump from the Republican primary ballot. She did so after ruling – again, unilaterally – that Trump “engaged in insurrection [and] rebellion.” But, like the Colorado Supreme Court before her, she suspended her decision pending any State court appeals.

The Maine ruling – and background

Secretary of State Bellows acted on three challenges by registered voters. Maine plans new “semi-open primaries,” so none of the voters had to be registered Republicans. Two of the challenges accused Trump of insurrection, and one of these cited Amendment XIV Section 3. The third said, because Trump explicitly said he won the Election of 2020, Amendment XXII bars him from running again.

Bellows denied the Amendment XXII challenge as moot, because, she says, Trump didn’t win. (In any event, no one disputes that he did not take the oath of office a second time on January 20, 2021.) But she held that Trump did indeed engage in an unlawful act of incitement to insurrection. She based that entirely on her interpretation of his public statements, as *Newsweek* reported today. But she suspended that removal in case Trump decided to appeal through Maine’s courts.

Maine blocks former President Trump from the ballot. The secretary of state's decision is suspended pending appeal. pic.twitter.com/dGNDQde9j4— Jared Halpern (@JaredHalpern) [December 29, 2023](#)

Secretary of State Shenna Bellows issued this decision regarding three challenges brought by Maine voters to the nomination petitions of Donald J. Trump for the Republican primary for the President of the United States. Read the decision here: <https://t.co/dCwJsC6HN9>— MaineSOS (@MESecOfState) [December 28, 2023](#)

CNN [reported](#) that Steven Cheung, spokesman for the Trump campaign, accused Bellows of election interference. He also cited her bias against Trump and for Joe Biden, now installed as President. (Jim Hoft at *The Gateway Pundit* [has the full statement.](#))

The Maine Secretary of State is a former ACLU attorney, a virulent leftist and a hyper-partisan Biden-supporting Democrat who has decided to interfere in the presidential election on behalf of Crooked Joe Biden.

Hoft also [reported](#) that Maine State Rep. John Andrews (R-Paris) has already initiated impeachment proceedings against Bellows.

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Evidence of bias

That bias is certainly well-founded. Cullen Linebarger [broke](#) the story at *TGP*. Mike LaChance [reminded everyone](#) that Bellows [attended](#) the 2017 Women's March, while still a State Senator.

This is Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, who just kicked Donald Trump off of the 2024 ballot. Clearly, she's just trying to protect our democracy. pic.twitter.com/e4Qq8br4wL— Ian McKelvey (@ian_mckelvey) [December 29, 2023](#)

Anthony Scott [reported](#) that Bellows has [attended](#) two Biden White House functions, in March and June.

Yes! That was such a powerful part of our trip to DC. Democrats, Republicans and nonpartisan elections officials united on issues of protecting election workers and finding critical election infrastructure. <https://t.co/rsCtHXyoDQ>— Shenna Bellows (@shennabellows) [June 8, 2023](#)

This morning, Linebarger [quoted](#) an ironic hashtag Bellows used in the fall of 2020: #LetThePeopleDecide.

I only lasted five minutes more than Brandon. Tapping out. But excited to vote for Biden as soon as I can. Let's restore civility. [#LetThePeopleDecide](#)— Shenna Bellows (@shennabellows) [September 30, 2020](#)

(The “Brandon” here is Brandon Bellows, Shenna’s husband.)

Other conservatives picked up on that hashtag last night.

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What a hashtag. <https://t.co/s6s68brlnb>— Stephen L. Miller (@redsteeze) [December 29, 2023](#)

Soooo....safe to say Santa did NOT bring you self-awareness for Christmas, huh?— CarolinaConservative3 (@1776Carolina3) [December 29, 2023](#)

🙄 well that didnt age well— Amie Singer (@ThatJewishLady) [December 29, 2023](#)

<pic.twitter.com/7lIs7iyQAm>— GOPPouncer (@Mellecon) [December 29, 2023](#)

Tell me you have zero self awareness in your hashtag game, without explicitly telling me you have zero self awareness in your hashtag game <pic.twitter.com/9lKYxeqzgP>— IKET is perpetually annoyed (@IKantEvenToday) [December 29, 2023](#)

<pic.twitter.com/ljlc291lg1>— Chris Paul (@imyourmoderator) [December 29, 2023](#)

Here for the ratio and me voting yes to send you to gitmo— Paulie (@pauliebignuts99) [December 29, 2023](#)

I loved you as Sheldon in "Big Bang Theory"— Jayroo (@jayroo69) [December 29, 2023](#)

[#LetThePeopleDecide](#) <pic.twitter.com/FCRBoh1eod>— Steve Stevenson (@AverageSteveS) [December 29, 2023](#)

Meanwhile, *Newsweek* [reports today](#) that several legal experts decried the ruling. Here is one example:

The Colorado decision is poor. Factually and legally unjustifiable. But the Maine [@shennabellows](#) unilateral decision is mind-boggling and comical. <https://t.co/vhPpynxlwS>— Brett L. Tolman (@tolmanbrett) [December 29, 2023](#)

Newsweek also quoted CNN’s senior legal analyst, Elie Honig, as questioning the fairness of the hearing Bellows held. This was definitely not a trial, because she heard from one witness – a law professor giving his opinion of Amendment XIV Section 3 and how it applies to Trump.

Whether and when Trump appeals Bellows' decision in Maine courts, remains to be seen. But Trump has already petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to review a decision by the *Colorado* Supreme Court to exclude him from the ballot in that State. Trump will remain on the Colorado Republican primary ballot until the Supreme Court acts.