

MEDIA ALERT

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HOMELESS VOICES FOR JUSTICE HOSTS 2018 CANDIDATES FORUMS

Featuring federal, state, and city candidates

PORTLAND, ME (September 28, 2018) — Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice (HVJ) is holding its annual candidates forums as part of the *You Don't Need a Home to Vote* campaign. Taking place at the Preble Street Soup Kitchen, the forums will feature federal, state, and city candidates.

The forums provide the opportunity for candidates to listen to, answer the questions of, and learn from a constituency with lived-experience of and valuable perspective on homelessness, poverty, and hunger.

Each of the forums will be hosted in the Preble Street Soup Kitchen at 9:45am, directly following breakfast.

Gubernatorial Candidates Forums

Monday, October 8, 9:45am – *Janet Mills (D)*

Tuesday, October 30, time TBD – *Alan Caron (I)*

Tuesday, October 30, time TBD – *Terry Hayes (I)*

TBD – *Shawn Moody (R)* (originally scheduled for October 1; canceled due to campaign time conflict)

NOTE: As schedules of individual candidates are subject to change, please RSVP to gubernatorial forums so that we can notify you individually with updates.

Federal Senate Candidates Forum – Friday, October 12, 9:45am

Eric Brakey (R), Senator Angus King (I), Zak Ringelstein (D)

Federal House Candidates Forum – Wednesday, October 17, 9:45am

Marty Grohman (I), Mark Holbrook (R), Representative Chellie Pingree (D)

State Legislative Candidates Forum – Friday, October 19, 9:45am

Senate District 27 – Crystal Canney (I), Ben Chipman (D)

House District 39 – Peter Doyle (R), Mike Sylvester (D)

Portland City Council Candidates Forum – Friday, October 26, 9:45am

City Council District 1 – Matthew Coffey, Belinda Ray

City Council At-Large – Joey Brunelle, Nicholas Mavodones

City Council District 2 – Spencer Thibodeau, Jonathan Torsch

The HVJ annual *You Don't Need a Home to Vote Campaign* educates people about their right to vote even if they don't have a home and assists them in the voting process from registration and absentee voting to accompanying them to polling locations and ensuring their rights are upheld.

Over the past 20 years, HVJ has organized more than 60 candidates forums at shelters and soup kitchens across Maine for federal, state, and municipal candidates and registered more than 2,350 voters who access meals at soup kitchens and sleep in homeless shelters or outside in camps—as well as youth at the Long Creek Youth Development Center.

Homeless Voices for Justice (HVJ) is a grassroots organization that works for social change, with and on behalf of people who struggle with homelessness and poverty. HVJ is self-led by organizers who have all experienced homelessness and is supported by a full-time organizer. The founding group in Portland has existed since 1995, and networks in other locations including York County, Augusta, Brunswick, and Lewiston—HVJ's goal is to build a coalition for, and of, homeless people throughout Maine. Through protest, education, and positive policy change and reform, HVJ seeks to empower poor and homeless people whose perspectives are often excluded from the development of policies and programs that impact their social and economic well-being.

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