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"Maine Citizens Care"

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Reforming Welfare Requires Action

By Mary C. Mayhew

Governor Paul LePage in his two-year state budget proposal has introduced a much-needed reform to the state's General Assistance (GA) welfare program. GA is managed by towns and cities but paid for mostly by state taxpayers.

Currently, the state reimburses municipalities for 50 percent of their GA costs up to a certain threshold, determined by their valuation. The state reimburses 90 percent of GA costs after that. Only Portland, Bangor, and Lewiston routinely surpass the threshold and receive heightened reimbursement.

There are several problems with this formula. First, it provides a perverse incentive for cities to spend more. Second, it creates fundamental unfairness between municipalities. Third, it lends itself to unpredictability since only three cities make up nearly all of the state's expenditures, leading



DHHS Commissioner Mary Mayhew

to multi-million dollar shortfalls in the program.

The Governor has proposed a bold reform to flip the GA reimbursement rates on their head and give all municipalities a 90 percent match up front, and a 10 percent match after municipalities reach 40 percent of their six-year spending average. This eliminates the incentive to spend more, treats all towns and cities equally by giving them all an opportunity to receive a 90

percent match, and stabilizes the program.

It has the added benefit of saving \$10.8 million over the two-year state budget cycle. In the Governor's budget, that money would be sent directly to fund services for truly disabled Maine citizens languishing on Section 21 MaineCare waitlists for services.

To give you an idea of the urgent need for meaningful reform, the City of Portland accounts for just five percent of the state's population but spends 63 percent of state GA funds. The city spends 11 times more money on GA than a combined Lewiston-Auburn, which has roughly the same number of people living in poverty. An increasingly large number of GA recipients staying in Portland's shelters are not even Maine citizens. As the city recently reported to the Legislature, 60 percent are from out of state or out of the country.

While Bangor and Lewiston

Leadership Matters. In 2011 Portland elected a Democratic mayor. Lewiston and Auburn both elected Republican mayors. Despite having similar populations (combining L-A), poverty rates and immigrant numbers; Portland's GA budget is 11 times that of L-A. Their mayor earns over \$82,000 in salary and benefits. More than 10 times the combined salaries of Lewiston and Auburn's mayor combined salary of \$8200. Fiscal Responsibility matters. Elections matter.

have tempered their GA spending since the height of the recession, reducing it by 20-30 percent as the unemployment rate drops, Portland has nearly doubled its spending, from \$5.5 million in 2009 to \$10 million in 2014.

Reform cont'd on page 7

Why Maine Cannot Afford a Minimum Wage Increase

By Nathan Hitchcock
themainewire.com

On Monday, the Maine State Legislature will host public hearings on bill requests made by members of the Maine House and Senate regarding Maine's minimum wage. There is one bill request asking the legislature to consider the benefits and detriments of increasing minimum wage, but there are seven others proposing to outright increase the minimum wage as soon as October. Increasing the minimum wage at all, let alone this soon, will decrease jobs for low skill workers. Since these minimum wage increases are supposed to help these very people with earning hire wages, this increase

will only harm the people these bills are meant to protect. Also, by increasing the minimum wage, Maine's unemployment rate will likely increase, and business owners and young working people will stay away from Maine, losing potential tax revenue and productivity.

These bill requests ask that Maine increase the minimum wage to rates higher than most states in the country. Currently, Maine's minimum wage is \$7.50 an hour, which is twenty-five cents more than the national minimum wage. Several of the legislative requests ask for an increase to \$8-\$9 an hour, and few further ask that the minimum

Wages cont'd on page 3

9,000 Fewer Mainers on Food Stamps

By Patrick Marvin
themainewire.com

According to Governor LePage's administration, 9,000 fewer Mainers have been using SNAP benefits, commonly called food stamps, since last year when it began enforcing volunteer and work requirements.

Department of Health and Human Services spokesperson David Sorenson told the Associated Press that roughly 12,000 able-bodied and childless adults were in the program at the end of last year, but that figure has since dropped this month to 2,680.

Before last year, Maine had waived the federal requirement that mandates that adults without disabilities or children work or



volunteer at least 20 hours per week.

But in July of 2014, Governor LePage announced that Maine would not seek another federal waiver, and would be fully enforcing the work requirement.

"We must continue to do all that we can to eliminate generational poverty and get people back to work," LePage said in a statement

Food stamps cont'd on page 7

TAX RELIEF FOR MAINE VETERANS

Governor LePage's Tax Reform & Relief Plan \$300 Million Dollars Returned to Mainers

The LePage Tax Cut Plan is a bold new initiative to make Maine more competitive and allows Mainers to keep more of their hard earned money. During his first term, with the support of the Republican-led 125th Legislature, Governor LePage was able to pass the largest tax cut in state history. The governor's plan builds on that success and provides immediate tax relief for Maine families.

When fully implemented in 2019, the LePage Tax Cut Plan will provide more than \$300 million in direct tax relief to hard-working Maine families.

However, Mainers will not have to wait until 2019 to see the benefits of the LePage tax cuts. Beginning in 2016, Maine families will realize \$238 million in meaningful tax relief as part of the governor's budget. In addition to this immediate tax cut, Maine families will see a net tax burden reduction of \$246 million and \$269 million in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Using Maine Revenue Services' conservative models for calculating the tax burden reduction

Cut Plan will provide more than \$300 million in direct tax relief to hardworking Maine families.

for Mainer families, the following is the breakdown of the overall tax relief figure when the plan is fully implemented in 2019:

*Includes Property Tax Fairness Credit (\$55.1 million) and Sales Tax Fairness Credit (\$66.2 million).

By 2019, when the tax cuts proposed by Governor LePage are fully implemented, Maine's individual income tax will have been reduced in total by 40 percent since the governor took office. "Governor LePage's proposal is both comprehensive and well thought out, reducing tax burdens and holding out the potential to trigger a substantial improvement to the state's business climate."

- Tax Foundation

The LePage Tax Cut Plan - 2019	
Net Individual Income Tax* Reduction	(\$604.8 million)
Net Sales & Use and Service Provider Tax Increase	\$288.8 million
Net Homestead Exemption Change	\$23.8 million
Net Impact	(\$292.2 million)
Estate Tax Elimination	(\$28.8 million)

Honoring our Veterans

The LePage Tax Cut Plan is a bold new initiative to make Maine a more attractive destination for our nation's veterans.

- **Eliminate the tax on military pensions.**
- **Cut the tax burden by \$300 million for Mainers.**
- **Repeal Maine's estate tax.**
- **Expand Property Tax Fairness Credit to provide direct property tax relief to Mainers.**
- **Double the homestead exemption for Mainers over 65.**

Eliminating the tax on military pensions.

Military pension benefits will be completely exempt from state income tax beginning in 2016. With this reform, Maine will join the 22 other states that honor their veterans by not taxing their pensions. This will encourage retired veterans of all ages to reside in Maine as well as those launching second careers.

Attracting veterans and their families to Maine. Our nation's veterans earned our respect through a career of public service and sacrifice, and Governor LePage wants to make Maine an attractive destination for them to locate and start their second career. In addition to exempting military pensions, Governor LePage's tax cut plan provides real tax relief to Maine families by slashing the individual income tax rate and reducing the overall tax burden on Maine families by \$300 million.

Protecting our veterans and their property through the repeal of the estate

tax. By eliminating the estate tax, Maine's veterans can rest assured that their businesses and the property they own will be passed on to the next generation instead of being sold off to pay a burdensome tax bill.



Providing property tax relief directly to Maine families. For too long, the State of Maine has tried to provide property tax relief to Maine families by providing direct aid to municipalities. This approach has failed to reduce the property tax burden borne by Maine homeowners. Governor LePage's tax cut plan will refocus property tax relief programs on individual homeowners instead of municipalities. His tax cut plan increases the maximum property tax fairness credit from \$900 to \$1,500 giving direct property tax relief to Maine families.

Keeping elderly veterans in their homes. By doubling the homestead exemption, Governor LePage's tax cut plan protects seniors from local property tax increases by exempting the first \$20,000 of their home's value from taxation.

A letter from the MCC Executive Director



Many Mainers are trapped by an oppressive government that makes them believe they cannot succeed and require an unhealthy reliance on a large state government. We are forgetting the basic founding principles that made our country great, e.g., personal responsibility, self-reliance, and accountability...principles that are a part of Maine's heritage.

Our underlying belief is that the Founders were confronted with many of the same issues that face us today and, using basic principles established our government to meet these challenges.

While the issues are not new, the progressive movement and accompanying societal changes over the years have destroyed Maine's business climate and created a culture of poverty and dependency.

We began to organize in 2013 and received our 501(c)(4) tax status in August 2014. Our goal is to provide Mainers with an alternative view on current issues and perhaps a different approach to resolving them. We believe, as did the Founders, that the best government is the one that governs least while providing for the "real" needs of all Mainers. Given the information that we provide we believe that Mainers will make better choices that will move our state forward.

To do this, the MCC creates and delivers informational materials directly to the people. themainecitizen, our newsletter, is one of our vehicles to provide information to all Mainers. Our website is www.MaineCitizensCoalition.org and we have an active presence on facebook.

If you would like to contribute to our organization you can do so by going to our website and click on the "Donate". Remember that the MCC has a 501(c)(4) tax status and thus any money donated to it is NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

We encourage you to visit our website, like our facebook page, and to "join" the MCC.

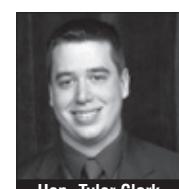
Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Keschl,
Executive Director



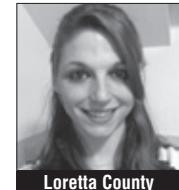
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TAX RELIEF FOR MAINE FAMILIES

Immediate Tax Relief for Maine Families

- **Taxpayer Scenario One:** Two married taxpayers, both under 65, with two children and a household Maine AGI of \$86,000 a year.

Standard Deduction

Total change in taxes: Reduction of \$396

State income tax now:	\$3,212
Proposed state income tax:	\$2,151
Change in state income tax:	(\$1,061)
Change in sales tax:	\$513
Change in property tax - loss of homestead exemption:	\$152

Change in Income, Sales, and Property Taxes:

Family pays \$396 less than current law.

Itemized Filers

Total change in taxes: Reduction of \$221

State income tax now:	\$3,037
Proposed state income tax:	\$2,151
Change in state income tax:	(\$886)
Change in sales tax:	\$513
Change in property tax - loss of homestead exemption:	\$152

Change in Income, Sales, and Property Taxes:

Family pays \$221 less than under current law.

- **Taxpayer Scenario Two:** Two married teachers, both under 65 years of age, with one child and a household Federal AGI of \$105,200 a year. Standard Deduction

Total change in taxes: Reduction of \$1,504

State income tax now:	\$5,684
Proposed state income tax:	\$3,490
Change in state income tax:	(\$2,194)
Change in sales tax:	\$539
Change in property tax - loss of homestead exemption:	\$151

Change in Income, Sales, and Property Taxes: Family pays \$1,504 less than current law.

Itemized Filers

Total change in taxes: Reduction of \$1,250

State income tax now:	\$5,430
Proposed state income tax:	\$3,490
Change in state income tax:	(\$1,940)
Change in sales tax:	\$539
Change in property tax - loss of homestead exemption:	\$151

Change in Income, Sales, and Property Taxes: Family pays \$1,250 less than under current law.

- **Taxpayer Scenario Three:** Single taxpayer, over 65, with no dependents, and a Maine AGI of \$20,500 a year.

Standard Deduction

Total change in taxes: Reduction of \$283

State income tax now:	\$202
Proposed state income tax:	\$0
Change in state income tax:	(\$202)
Change in sales tax:	\$226
Change in property tax - increase in homestead exemption:	(\$158)

Change in Income, Sales, and Property Taxes:

Taxpayer pays \$283 less than current law.

- **Taxpayer Scenario Four:** Two married taxpayers, at least one over 65, with a household Maine AGI of \$41,000 a year.

Standard Deduction

Total change in taxes: Reduction of \$230

State income tax now:	\$530
Proposed state income tax:	\$0
Change in state income tax:	(\$530)
Change in sales tax:	\$452

Change in property tax - increase in homestead exemption:

(\$152) Change in Income, Sales, and Property Taxes: Family pays \$230 less than current law.

- **Taxpayer Scenario Five:** Head of household filer with two children and Maine AGI of \$28,500 a year. Standard Deduction

Total change in taxes: Reduction of \$116

State income tax now:	\$0
Proposed state income tax:	\$0
Change in state income tax:	\$0
Change in sales tax:	\$266
Refundable sales tax credit:	(\$280)
Refundable Property Tax Fairness Credit:	(\$258)
Change in property tax - loss of homestead exemption:	\$156

Change in Income, Sales, and Property Taxes: Family pays \$116 less than current law.

Wages cont'd from page 1

wage later be adjusted to what is known as the Consumer Price Index (CPI). What these legislators are asking is that the minimum wage change based on percentage changes of the CPI, which is an annual report that analyzes prices of a number of common goods to determine changes in what money can buy, a.k.a. changes in purchasing power.

If that was not high enough of an increase, one request sent by Rep. Scott Hamann, D-South Portland, advocates an increase

If Maine were to increase the minimum wage, businesses will no longer be able to hire as many people

to \$10.10 an hour, which is higher than any minimum wage requirement in the entire country, and then asks to further increase the minimum wage annually to reflect changes in the CPI.

Increasing the minimum wage will affect the ability for businesses to hire low skill workers who typically work in minimum wage positions. Businesses cannot afford to pay these higher wages, and to compensate, will begin letting people go. These minimum wage hikes are meant to give more money to those working in the minimum wage positions, but increasing the minimum wage will leave these workers without jobs. Last I checked, having a job that pays \$7.50 an hour is more profitable than having no job and no income.

This increase in the minimum wage will also likely increase Maine's unemployment rate. Currently, Maine's unemployment rate is at 5.5%, which is around the average for the nation. Washington, D.C. currently holds the highest unemployment rate in the nation at 7.7%, and coincidentally also has the highest rate for minimum wage at \$9.50 an hour. On the other end of the spectrum, North Dakota boasts an unemployment rate of just 2.9%, and its minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Maine has had issues regarding high unemployment for years, but has been steadily improving its unemployment rate since 2010. If Maine were to increase the minimum wage, businesses will no longer be able to hire as many people, and would begin letting people go so they can pay the minimum wage to the most skilled employees. This would seriously hurt Maine's unemployment rate, which in turn would harm other aspects in Maine. For example, a high unemployment rate will discourage businesses and young working people.

Transparency Needed in Publicly Funded News

The Maine Public Broadcasting Network (MPBN) provides some of the best and sometimes only coverage of statewide policy issues. That coverage often sets the agenda and shapes public opinion. Like Fox News, MSNBC and Maine's newspapers, MPBN has biases which effects it's news judgement, influencing what issues it covers or ignores and how.

The First Amendment protects the media from government meddling, but competition and credibility concerns have led most media outlets towards more transparency regarding their ideological bents and potential conflicts of interest. MPBN, as a pseudo "public" entity providing a public good while receiving a taxpayer subsidy has a higher responsibility in this area than private entities, and they have failed to meet this responsibility.

MPBN has resisted efforts to disclose their underwriting/sponsor relationships when an MPBN news story involves or quotes one of those underwriter/sponsors. The public has a right to know that MPBN's news judgement and coverage might be impacted by their financial dependence on an underwriter/sponsor, and MPBN has a responsibility to disclose those relationships when they do a story involving their underwriters/sponsors.

Here are three examples of underwriters MPBN should be disclosing when they are covered and/or quoted in stories:

Efficiency Maine

Efficiency Maine is an MPBN underwriter /sponsor. Efficiency Maine is largely funded through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cap and trade program that taxes energy producers and directs those funds towards energy efficiency investments. MPBN has frequently covered or quoted Efficiency Maine in recent years, with stories from MPBN stalwarts Susan Sharon, A.J. Higgins, Mal Leary and Tom Porter. The most recent story noted a controversial (to environmentalists and Democrats at least) PUC decision to cut allowed program spending by almost 2/3. Such a cut would almost certainly reduce Efficiency Maine's underwriting capacity. None of the stories included a disclosure of Efficiency Maine's underwriting/sponsor status.

First Wind

First Wind is an MPBN underwriter/sponsor. MPBN has frequently covered First Wind related stories. Last fall, Jay Field reported on the acquisition of First Wind ; last month A.J. Higgins reported on a PUC decision to reexamine a First Wind project permit. None of the stories included a disclosure

of First Wind's underwriting/sponsor status.

Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM)

The NRCM is a long time and prominent MPBN underwriter. MPBN frequently quotes NRCM staff and board members. None of the stories included a disclosure of the NRCM's underwriting/sponsor status.

Senator David Burns (R-Washington) has introduced LD 252, An Act to Increase Transparency of Entities Receiving Substantial Amounts of Public Funding. The bill is an attempt to shame MPBN into doing the right thing. When MPBN does a story which substantially involves and/or quotes from an underwriter/sponsor, that underwriting/sponsor relationship should be disclosed. The hearing is April 1st, and I'm sure MPBN and the environmental left will have plenty of lame excuses as to why MPBN's lack of transparency should continue unchallenged.



BUDGET

Below is a table, organized alphabetically by town, which includes the most recent net income tax paid by all filers, the calculated tax cut based on actual filers as proposed in your biennial budget, and the most recent revenue sharing for those same towns. This supplements our work to date on LD 1 and its stated, and far from achieved, goal of reducing state and local tax burden. The proposed budget returns \$17 in income tax cuts to Maine residents for every \$1 of revenue sharing that is directed to municipal corporations.

MUNICIPALITY	2013 NET INCOME TAX FOR ALL FILERS	PROPOSED GOV. LePAGE TAX CUT	2014 REVENUE SHARING
ABBOT	\$317,858	\$110,689	\$22,814
ACTON	\$1,828,748	\$579,029	\$78,200
ADDISON	\$619,833	\$208,454	\$42,126
ALBION	\$1,413,052	\$451,907	\$76,050
ALEXANDER	\$320,426	\$98,263	\$21,761
ALFRED	\$2,640,330	\$824,949	\$119,351
ALLAGASH	\$51,298	\$20,959	\$7,636
ALNA	\$674,187	\$208,992	\$38,465
ALTON	\$502,488	\$166,764	\$24,183
AMHERST	\$163,394	\$50,106	\$8,923
AMITY	\$87,987	\$28,154	\$10,568
ANDOVER	\$363,055	\$126,308	\$26,304
ANSON	\$1,115,018	\$382,538	\$167,926
APPLETON	\$932,536	\$296,192	\$65,353
ARROWSIC	\$567,142	\$162,113	\$10,434
ARUNDEL	\$3,933,636	\$1,179,507	\$158,162
ASHLAND	\$708,336	\$235,610	\$127,695
ATHENS	\$311,611	\$112,131	\$43,561
ATKINSON	\$165,052	\$53,502	\$18,128
AUBURN	\$19,960,278	\$6,129,248	\$1,646,561
AUGUSTA	\$12,700,352	\$4,007,520	\$1,157,269
AURORA	\$111,307	\$38,095	\$3,504
AVON	\$141,704	\$51,667	\$15,358
BAILEYVILLE	\$943,226	\$298,451	\$99,986
BALDWIN	\$931,392	\$307,214	\$56,914
BANGOR	\$28,992,283	\$8,423,178	\$2,250,789
BAR HARBOR	\$6,359,749	\$1,851,841	\$130,502
BARING PLT	\$146,047	\$45,314	\$14,279
BATH	\$7,190,134	\$2,197,863	\$554,101
BEALS	\$288,419	\$90,705	\$25,106
BELFAST	\$5,331,024	\$1,604,487	\$330,194
BELGRADE	\$4,880,931	\$1,426,763	\$91,404
BELMONT	\$494,442	\$166,679	\$22,824
BENTON	\$1,594,966	\$521,435	\$67,536
BERWICK	\$5,821,283	\$1,870,606	\$373,356
BETHEL	\$2,119,922	\$668,503	\$84,553
BIDDEFORD	\$14,376,293	\$4,545,141	\$1,190,274
BINGHAM	\$392,170	\$134,846	\$63,432
BLAINE	\$346,825	\$112,060	\$43,197
BLUE HILL	\$3,280,467	\$936,752	\$48,805
BOOTHBAY	\$3,116,891	\$964,644	\$61,811
BOOTHBAY HARBOR	\$2,016,888	\$605,946	\$45,267
BOWDOIN	\$2,451,297	\$770,935	\$101,515
BOWDOINHAM	\$3,224,463	\$979,589	\$132,501
BRADFORD	\$551,746	\$182,070	\$56,271
BRADLEY	\$1,065,916	\$344,299	\$63,918
BREMEN	\$796,083	\$230,162	\$19,339
BREWER	\$10,380,649	\$3,112,805	\$601,615
BRIDGEWATER	\$194,835	\$70,490	\$28,068
BRIDGTON	\$3,119,267	\$988,946	\$203,955
BRISTOL	\$3,398,607	\$1,039,297	\$40,652
BROOKLIN	\$788,793	\$246,031	\$12,759
BROOKS	\$492,145	\$161,624	\$42,089
BROOKSVILLE	\$925,893	\$275,295	\$12,790
BROWNFIELD	\$725,018	\$251,627	\$61,764
BROWNVILLE	\$676,632	\$227,528	\$79,562
BRUNSWICK	\$23,882,483	\$6,885,031	\$1,059,143
BUCKFIELD	\$1,115,010	\$376,430	\$112,655
BUCKSPORT	\$3,088,389	\$1,008,125	\$168,537
BURLINGTON	\$144,987	\$49,804	\$19,800
BURNHAM	\$463,013	\$158,326	\$49,810
BUXTON	\$8,066,473	\$2,471,359	\$262,252
CALAIS	\$2,006,438	\$617,385	\$230,993
CAMBRIDGE	\$205,411	\$66,534	\$19,330
CAMDEN	\$8,014,776	\$2,249,374	\$183,331
CANAAN	\$1,060,628	\$354,310	\$104,231
CANTON	\$400,448	\$134,636	\$57,185

CAPE ELIZABETH	\$30,536,717	\$8,294,367	\$451,764
CARIBOU	\$5,631,859	\$1,726,853	\$587,371
CARMEL	\$2,035,409	\$651,765	\$116,042
CARRABASSETT VALLEY	\$757,270	\$215,733	\$11,487
CARROLL PLT	\$32,838	\$13,369	\$3,579
CARTHAGE	\$257,211	\$78,290	\$25,292
CARY PLT	\$75,638	\$28,267	\$12,913
CASCO	\$3,163,994	\$1,024,199	\$146,944
CASTINE	\$1,028,841	\$293,877	\$32,194
CASTLE HILL	\$130,095	\$45,152	\$16,186
CASWELL	\$109,941	\$36,899	\$13,556
CHAPMAN	\$299,361	\$99,302	\$17,827
CHARLESTON	\$565,216	\$188,659	\$53,968
CHARLOTTE	\$199,970	\$60,853	\$24,195
CHEBEAGUE ISLAND	\$339,779	\$110,868	\$12,009
CHELSEA	\$1,722,362	\$555,335	\$130,741
CHERRYFIELD	\$476,466	\$165,787	\$50,758
CHESTER	\$359,479	\$113,438	\$13,548
CHESTERVILLE	\$634,212	\$203,358	\$47,056
CHINA/CHINA VILLAGE	\$3,945,373	\$1,197,953	\$152,832
CLIFTON	\$619,723	\$186,891	\$33,002
CLINTON	\$2,051,222	\$664,636	\$145,681
COLUMBIA	\$149,865	\$51,020	\$24,939
COLUMBIA FALLS	\$287,212	\$96,614	\$17,996
COOPER	\$106,301	\$32,924	\$6,909
CORINNA	\$1,435,319	\$466,670	\$111,359
CORINTH	\$1,723,768	\$561,400	\$88,393
CORNISH	\$1,007,381	\$318,960	\$57,684
CORNVILLE	\$831,591	\$269,102	\$51,707
CRANBERRY ISLE	\$122,653	\$37,449	\$2,367
CRYSTAL	\$46,253	\$16,982	\$14,565
CUMBERLAND	\$15,294,916	\$4,203,676	\$417,852
CUSHING	\$1,166,929	\$350,995	\$54,101
CUTLER	\$294,212	\$91,538	\$17,396
DAMARISCOTTA	\$2,732,718	\$825,790	\$98,457
DANFORTH	\$174,845	\$64,208	\$25,743
DAYTON	\$1,922,916	\$596,499	\$96,653
DEDHAM	\$1,276,074	\$370,527	\$63,885
DEER ISLE	\$2,523,823	\$750,743	\$45,190
DENMARK	\$876,891	\$273,466	\$37,238
DENNYSVILLE	\$278,571	\$95,123	\$10,007
DETROIT	\$348,615	\$118,232	\$39,598
DEXTER	\$1,430,654	\$495,869	\$215,767
DIXFIELD	\$1,552,173	\$498,719	\$182,766
DIXMONT	\$870,786	\$284,389	\$33,407
DOVER FOXCROFT	\$2,667,293	\$871,454	\$232,379
DRESDEN	\$1,548,622	\$475,787	\$57,838
DURHAM	\$4,457,532	\$1,325,543	\$140,827
DYER BROOK	\$94,835	\$32,343	\$5,412
EAGLE LAKE	\$481,665	\$154,146	\$40,857
EAST MACHIAS	\$844,283	\$266,323	\$61,703
EAST MILLINOCKET	\$924,119	\$292,452	\$146,023
EASTBROOK	\$159,206	\$54,959	\$18,821
EASTON	\$756,284	\$248,173	\$34,374
EASTPORT	\$561,058	\$191,648	\$102,707
EDDINGTON	\$1,806,348	\$562,614	\$78,886
EDGECOMB	\$1,127,100	\$332,251	\$44,383
ELIOT	\$8,351,365	\$2,545,991	\$243,654
ELLSWORTH	\$7,412,917	\$2,231,925	\$364,689
EMBDEN	\$346,583	\$117,353	\$34,894
ENFIELD	\$917,577	\$297,625	\$85,230
ETNA	\$576,787	\$198,556	\$53,690
EUSTIS	\$557,374	\$198,694	\$15,279
EXETER	\$582,732	\$189,233	\$45,541
FAIRFIELD	\$4,479,361	\$1,409,010	\$459,304
FALMOUTH	\$41,103,106	\$10,927,465	\$457,149
FARMINGDALE	\$2,271,921	\$702,325	\$100,209
FARMINGTON	\$4,259,576	\$1,313,373	\$376,095
FAYETTE	\$1,293,137	\$395,228	\$45,752
FORT FAIRFIELD	\$1,767,408	\$574,782	\$244,304
FORT KENT	\$3,303,884	\$1,018,592	\$209,666

BUDGET

FRANKFORT	\$514,375	\$180,647	\$43,664
FRANKLIN	\$756,854	\$250,691	\$35,087
FREEDOM	\$348,659	\$117,794	\$34,477
FREEPORT	\$15,434,826	\$4,414,533	\$361,281
FRENCHVILLE	\$530,069	\$179,060	\$59,438
FRIENDSHIP	\$568,412	\$189,705	\$25,114
FRYEBURG	\$1,979,460	\$647,335	\$170,373
GARDINER	\$4,170,666	\$1,330,756	\$427,684
GARLAND	\$433,390	\$153,551	\$46,959
GEORGETOWN	\$1,221,062	\$373,446	\$19,758
GILEAD	\$63,697	\$22,668	\$9,756
GLENBURN	\$4,097,443	\$1,228,421	\$274,984
GORHAM	\$20,821,609	\$6,062,204	\$775,939
GOULDSBORO	\$964,717	\$304,862	\$36,200
GRAND ISLE	\$160,883	\$55,820	\$34,532
GRAND LAKE STREAM PLT	\$78,307	\$27,447	\$2,009
GRAY	\$8,452,363	\$2,540,988	\$304,598
GREENBUSH	\$833,535	\$279,219	\$105,912
GREENE	\$3,628,244	\$1,130,576	\$182,983
GREENVILLE	\$1,476,221	\$469,918	\$67,093
GREENWOOD	\$493,101	\$154,976	\$30,666
GUILFORD	\$864,161	\$281,935	\$63,830
HALLOWELL	\$2,762,960	\$819,716	\$118,260
HAMLIN	\$51,724	\$17,689	\$3,082
HAMPDEN	\$12,395,799	\$3,569,545	\$374,594
HANCOCK	\$1,421,030	\$464,217	\$60,147
HANOVER	\$204,972	\$64,145	\$4,937
HARMONY	\$308,742	\$106,370	\$32,589
HARPSWELL	\$7,413,831	\$2,144,094	\$68,870
HARRINGTON	\$365,605	\$127,492	\$45,632
HARRISON	\$1,548,292	\$503,344	\$80,693
HARTFORD	\$616,715	\$203,214	\$55,748
HARTLAND	\$908,898	\$292,176	\$120,135
HEBRON	\$948,593	\$304,770	\$59,473
HERMON	\$5,631,293	\$1,700,067	\$167,902
HIRAM	\$698,231	\$233,097	\$65,573
HODGDON	\$584,050	\$189,720	\$52,463
HOLDEN	\$5,315,018	\$1,520,425	\$134,839
HOLLIS/HOLLIS CENTER	\$4,039,721	\$1,255,046	\$108,632
HOPE	\$1,406,886	\$437,776	\$60,495
HOULTON	\$3,900,530	\$1,217,149	\$383,420
HOWLAND	\$529,460	\$183,615	\$84,219
HUDSON	\$941,926	\$302,976	\$44,905
INDUSTRY	\$451,759	\$146,335	\$32,639
ISLAND FALLS	\$370,968	\$128,494	\$58,991
ISLEBORO	\$518,640	\$158,520	\$11,537
JACKMAN	\$1,204,930	\$364,309	\$38,868
JACKSON	\$211,524	\$74,513	\$30,715
JAY	\$2,845,956	\$924,810	\$183,010
JEFFERSON	\$1,909,434	\$592,404	\$86,468
JONESBORO	\$334,663	\$106,786	\$18,326
JONESPORT	\$530,948	\$174,096	\$48,750
KENDUSKEAG	\$809,391	\$265,799	\$41,653
KENNEBUNK	\$15,515,855	\$4,515,060	\$438,752
KENNEBUNKPORT	\$6,761,259	\$1,898,148	\$56,730
KINGFIELD	\$1,048,756	\$319,535	\$29,404
KITTERY	\$10,340,558	\$3,254,452	\$398,491
KNOX	\$335,459	\$116,394	\$30,794
LAGRANGE	\$249,753	\$87,707	\$24,686
LAMOINE	\$1,391,799	\$430,797	\$36,965
LEBANON	\$3,962,654	\$1,291,640	\$215,587
LEE	\$475,148	\$154,778	\$54,329
LEEDS	\$1,480,282	\$488,279	\$89,014
LEVANT	\$1,960,089	\$630,855	\$92,794
LEWISTON	\$20,317,807	\$6,385,512	\$2,863,347
LIBERTY	\$632,013	\$208,946	\$32,013
LIMERICK	\$1,926,149	\$618,030	\$108,939
LIMESTONE	\$673,861	\$238,713	\$165,906
LIMINGTON	\$2,531,585	\$802,929	\$97,798
LINCOLN	\$3,204,578	\$1,022,578	\$320,667
LINCOLNVILLE	\$1,953,927	\$599,055	\$91,972
LINNEUS	\$327,270	\$111,258	\$40,166
LISBON	\$5,793,012	\$1,888,449	\$573,049
LITCHFIELD	\$2,719,429	\$876,669	\$121,391
LITTLETON	\$324,059	\$111,655	\$35,665

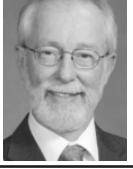
LIVERMORE	\$1,442,917	\$471,932	\$87,308
LIVERMORE FALLS	\$1,090,920	\$372,104	\$234,053
LONG ISLAND	\$188,050	\$61,236	\$4,258
LOVELL	\$1,000,859	\$301,788	\$21,555
LOWELL	\$212,880	\$65,316	\$17,036
LUBEC	\$683,197	\$227,701	\$70,808
LUDLOW	\$179,191	\$63,447	\$20,293
LYMAN	\$3,632,152	\$1,130,640	\$137,018
MACHIAS	\$1,224,987	\$377,996	\$182,452
MACHIASPORT	\$364,592	\$123,461	\$50,562
MACWAHOC PLT	\$103,294	\$33,631	\$4,076
MADAWASKA	\$1,951,887	\$637,616	\$303,793
MADISON	\$2,588,679	\$811,774	\$241,762
MANCHESTER	\$4,590,004	\$1,327,733	\$102,417
MAPLETON	\$1,648,534	\$503,201	\$71,905
MARIAVILLE	\$261,162	\$87,323	\$17,196
MARS HILL	\$1,144,816	\$350,839	\$75,819
MARSHFIELD	\$317,362	\$99,011	\$25,262
MASARDIS	\$76,881	\$26,796	\$13,690
MATTAWAMKEAG	\$234,513	\$82,124	\$43,252
MECHANIC FALLS	\$1,698,733	\$560,387	\$179,265
MEDDYBUMPS	\$68,214	\$23,792	\$3,636
MEDFORD	\$107,783	\$36,773	\$16,919
MEDWAY	\$662,456	\$221,150	\$116,135
MERCER	\$417,733	\$136,616	\$31,663
MEXICO	\$1,075,790	\$363,239	\$290,806
MILBRIDGE	\$647,690	\$211,867	\$56,499
MILFORD	\$2,201,489	\$700,235	\$184,180
MILLINOCKET	\$2,394,060	\$773,535	\$424,672
MILO	\$816,226	\$284,870	\$197,928
MINOT	\$2,903,118	\$873,682	\$123,096
MONMOUTH	\$3,457,201	\$1,095,323	\$179,162
MONROE	\$480,776	\$155,359	\$48,519
MONSON	\$209,366	\$73,612	\$24,440
MONTICELLO	\$344,004	\$117,860	\$37,832
MONTVILLE	\$445,625	\$155,578	\$48,186
MOOSE RIVER	\$61,568	\$20,874	\$9,496
MORRILL	\$599,734	\$192,262	\$33,609
MOSCOW	\$84,820	\$33,973	\$24,280
MOUNT DESERT	\$3,698,885	\$1,049,127	\$31,358
MOUNT VERNON	\$1,297,112	\$392,488	\$61,630
NAPLES	\$2,810,865	\$882,278	\$141,843
NEW CANADA PLT	\$183,188	\$57,315	\$10,604
NEW GLOUCESTER	\$5,944,320	\$1,799,513	\$191,515
NEW LIMERICK	\$349,664	\$109,398	\$5,051
NEW PORTLAND	\$376,989	\$126,992	\$35,472
NEW SHARON	\$860,832	\$286,016	\$55,840
NEW SWEDEN	\$291,222	\$96,557	\$26,183
NEW VINEYARD	\$435,238	\$137,468	\$20,264
NEWBURGH	\$1,410,176	\$420,076	\$62,877
NEWCASTLE	\$2,108,093	\$628,589	\$65,805
NEWFIELD	\$852,209	\$280,710	\$36,269
NEWPORT	\$2,063,490	\$655,317	\$155,766
NEWRY	\$406,204	\$120,288	\$6,637
NOBLEBORO	\$1,579,398	\$473,584	\$45,114
NORRIDGEWOCK	\$2,163,335	\$687,871	\$166,398
NORTH BERWICK	\$4,468,990	\$1,403,213	\$144,109
NORTH HAVEN	\$340,124	\$108,062	\$6,467
NORTH YARMOUTH	\$7,160,734	\$1,937,568	\$169,518
NORTHPORT	\$1,386,401	\$451,686	\$44,440
NORWAY	\$3,616,606	\$1,099,833	\$227,316
OAKFIELD	\$273,994	\$99,461	\$41,638
OAKLAND	\$6,201,024	\$1,857,748	\$245,510
OGUNQUIT	\$2,632,874	\$797,442	\$16,931
OLD ORCHARD BEACH	\$7,897,030	\$2,390,216	\$380,040
OLD TOWN	\$5,204,762	\$1,669,260	\$509,701
ORIENT	\$39,456	\$13,016	\$4,375
ORLAND	\$1,572,354	\$501,228	\$77,852
ORONO	\$5,736,519	\$1,639,624	\$866,015
ORRINGTON	\$3,515,779	\$1,072,630	\$162,959
OTIS	\$471,595	\$144,680	\$11,883
OTISFIELD	\$977,601	\$324,352	\$47,457
OWLS HEAD	\$1,585		

BUDGET

PALMYRA	\$849,621	\$285,876	\$73,330
PARIS	\$3,039,076	\$965,250	\$211,370
PARKMAN	\$272,813	\$95,030	\$29,504
PARSONFIELD	\$1,147,405	\$385,506	\$92,535
PASSADUMKEAG	\$151,948	\$53,710	\$17,661
PATTEN	\$447,749	\$151,057	\$69,644
PEMBROKE	\$347,958	\$114,198	\$43,864
PENOBCOT	\$1,144,619	\$350,908	\$27,240
PERHAM	\$157,925	\$56,442	\$20,323
PERRY	\$549,690	\$190,743	\$32,390
PERU	\$1,183,287	\$372,004	\$76,611
PHILLIPS	\$516,508	\$172,334	\$62,268
PHIPPSBURG	\$2,193,683	\$664,522	\$43,051
PITTSFIELD	\$2,864,274	\$882,725	\$224,518
PITTSTON	\$2,023,692	\$639,510	\$84,327
PLYMOUTH	\$640,999	\$218,891	\$45,419
POLAND	\$5,132,291	\$1,559,959	\$220,452
PORTAGE LAKE	\$176,103	\$60,647	\$15,227
PORTER	\$615,104	\$205,772	\$70,022
PORTLAND	\$84,911,970	\$25,082,646	\$4,236,475
POWNAL	\$2,045,175	\$584,877	\$68,427
PRESQUE ISLE	\$6,831,708	\$2,081,293	\$775,619
PRINCETON	\$541,937	\$176,508	\$40,466
PROSPECT	\$365,267	\$121,177	\$36,171
RANDOLPH	\$1,006,129	\$329,993	\$85,115
RANGELEY	\$1,300,413	\$411,594	\$29,095
RAYMOND	\$5,970,345	\$1,858,413	\$117,531
READFIELD	\$2,678,098	\$795,436	\$117,065
RICHMOND	\$2,447,494	\$773,736	\$179,873
RIPLEY	\$250,770	\$79,212	\$22,534
ROBBINSTON	\$343,361	\$108,875	\$23,169
ROCKLAND	\$4,587,103	\$1,451,034	\$503,272
ROCKPORT	\$5,513,560	\$1,613,675	\$126,807
ROME	\$795,482	\$239,736	\$19,449
ROQUE BLUFFS	\$128,930	\$44,092	\$7,321
ROXBURY	\$194,477	\$65,026	\$13,593
RUMFORD	\$2,907,392	\$943,710	\$433,431
SABATTUS	\$3,589,404	\$1,155,528	\$221,086
SACO	\$20,431,681	\$6,105,287	\$904,900
SAINT AGATHA	\$532,617	\$165,832	\$33,103
SAINT ALBANS	\$947,255	\$311,668	\$81,728
SAINT FRANCIS	\$145,523	\$51,213	\$15,010
SAINT GEORGE	\$1,789,096	\$547,995	\$82,110
SAINT JOHN PLT	\$129,582	\$42,009	\$6,551
SANFORD	\$13,701,749	\$4,411,808	\$1,261,242
SANGERVILLE	\$471,670	\$167,380	\$67,731
SCARBOROUGH	\$36,395,465	\$10,117,937	\$782,212
SEARSMONT	\$1,004,007	\$326,900	\$55,182
SEARSPOWER	\$1,581,328	\$527,605	\$142,620
SEBAGO	\$1,381,203	\$434,971	\$64,659
SEBEC	\$302,391	\$103,300	\$21,716
SEDGWICK	\$697,549	\$230,756	\$29,643
SHAPLEIGH	\$2,072,101	\$660,307	\$64,992
SHERMAN	\$283,402	\$104,392	\$52,117
SHIRLEY/SHIRLEY MILLS	\$53,699	\$19,748	\$6,997
SIDNEY	\$4,413,818	\$1,315,982	\$98,876
SKOWHEGAN	\$6,334,628	\$1,961,049	\$406,172
SMITHFIELD	\$757,464	\$236,898	\$43,066
SMYRNA/SMYRNA MILLS	\$222,510	\$75,771	\$22,754
SOLON	\$426,085	\$151,261	\$44,410
SOMERVILLE	\$196,324	\$65,914	\$21,708
SORRENTO	\$373,580	\$105,965	\$4,048
SOUTH BERWICK	\$7,798,033	\$2,437,379	\$374,447
SOUTH BRISTOL	\$1,097,910	\$338,918	\$8,159
SOUTH PORTLAND	\$28,225,872	\$8,498,986	\$1,294,642
SOUTH THOMASTON	\$2,043,020	\$608,853	\$59,454
SOUTHPORT	\$753,921	\$214,935	\$6,071
SOUTHWEST HARBOR	\$2,109,512	\$611,843	\$54,155
SPRINGFIELD	\$140,235	\$49,331	\$29,167
STACYVILLE	\$109,400	\$39,275	\$27,060
STANDISH	\$9,442,287	\$2,857,656	\$283,985
STARKS	\$177,672	\$61,444	\$44,488
STETSON	\$680,754	\$227,402	\$52,883
STEUBEN	\$388,071	\$132,961	\$51,015

STOCKHOLM	\$265,542	\$82,680	\$13,614
STOCKTON SPRINGS	\$1,152,792	\$355,484	\$78,130
STONEHAM	\$134,336	\$45,671	\$4,050
STONINGTON	\$964,887	\$285,429	\$23,957
STOW	\$149,803	\$50,078	\$14,444
STRONG	\$840,952	\$284,790	\$41,361
SULLIVAN	\$568,651	\$197,283	\$36,730
SUMNER	\$415,831	\$142,461	\$54,540
SURRY	\$1,581,135	\$468,668	\$25,572
SWANS ISLAND	\$231,449	\$75,140	\$7,515
SWANVILLE	\$748,595	\$239,405	\$58,595
SWEDEN	\$369,367	\$105,740	\$15,400
TEMPLE	\$365,162	\$122,251	\$25,824
THOMASTON	\$1,874,736	\$597,100	\$155,101
THORNDIKE	\$431,347	\$141,021	\$26,100
TOPSFIELD	\$103,553	\$34,717	\$9,069
TOPSHAM	\$11,068,261	\$3,300,295	\$511,600
TREMONT	\$1,044,274	\$324,895	\$31,004
TRENTON	\$1,133,276	\$357,129	\$50,787
TROY	\$430,288	\$144,196	\$40,761
TURNER	\$5,568,256	\$1,670,861	\$185,139
UNION	\$1,840,476	\$576,236	\$93,439
UNITY	\$845,378	\$284,016	\$67,517
VAN BUREN	\$870,772	\$285,572	\$159,756
VANCEBORO	\$39,037	\$15,628	\$11,666
VASSALBORO	\$3,465,404	\$1,078,541	\$118,857
VEAZIE	\$2,466,618	\$684,403	\$129,068
VERONA	\$261,295	\$84,671	\$18,192
VIENNA	\$376,473	\$119,179	\$22,218
VINALHAVEN	\$825,554	\$255,761	\$24,587
WADE	\$92,714	\$31,005	\$16,356
WALDO	\$559,960	\$174,153	\$23,395
WALDOBORO	\$2,992,221	\$965,626	\$223,455
WALES	\$1,297,671	\$405,744	\$80,002
WALLAGRASS	\$314,523	\$105,137	\$23,646
WALTHAM	\$221,200	\$71,612	\$13,246
WARREN	\$2,556,471	\$843,990	\$198,684
WASHBURN	\$821,452	\$271,934	\$123,389
WASHINGTON	\$838,690	\$274,284	\$48,206
WATERBORO	\$5,757,370	\$1,837,643	\$306,043
WATERFORD	\$1,087,696	\$342,697	\$43,569
WATERVILLE	\$9,735,474	\$2,929,423	\$1,092,723
WAYNE	\$1,344,474	\$408,865	\$47,752
WELD	\$287,607	\$92,574	\$6,116
WELLINGTON	\$42,809	\$15,901	\$9,442
WELLS	\$10,731,322	\$3,314,522	\$226,718
WESLEY	\$48,019	\$17,706	\$3,628
WEST BATH	\$1,866,545	\$558,943	\$53,093
WEST GARDINER	\$2,768,181	\$875,477	\$98,322
WEST PARIS	\$689,055	\$245,758	\$77,249
WESTBROOK	\$14,769,495	\$4,640,794	\$1,046,417
WESTFIELD	\$259,690	\$83,966	\$32,478
WESTON	\$39,347	\$15,737	\$7,187
WESTPORT	\$738,004	\$225,229	\$15,148
WHITEFIELD	\$1,588,016	\$501,048	\$97,886
WHITING	\$217,138	\$70,091	\$14,176
WHITNEYVILLE	\$69,344	\$23,995	\$8,571
WILTON	\$2,611,620	\$821,131	\$197,262
WINDHAM	\$19,288,705	\$5,813,370	\$724,765
WINDSOR	\$1,685,480	\$541,102	\$99,504
WINN	\$383,892	\$113,553	\$22,907
WINSLOW	\$7,039,827	\$2,118,826	\$393,780
WINTER HARBOR	\$433,793	\$129,671	\$8,012
WINTERPORT	\$3,288,537	\$999,149	\$135,286
WINTERVILLE PLT	\$63,345	\$20,662	\$7,500
WINTHROP	\$6,697,161	\$1,985,081	\$266,722
WISCASSET	\$2,825,250	\$893,048	\$199,594
WOODLAND	\$540,461	\$177,856	\$54,785
WOODSTOCK	\$894,832	\$284,172	\$38,634
WOODVILLE	\$77,686	\$28,142	\$11,107
WOOLWICH	\$3,753,141	\$1,109,184	\$96,989
YARMOUTH	\$21,157,157	\$5,811,269	\$536,704
YORK	\$21,955,673	\$6,700,868	\$296,310
GRAND TOTAL	\$1		

SENATORS

	Senator Peter Edgecomb – R District - 1 Email: peter.edgecomb@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Chair, Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Education and Cultural Affairs		Senator Christopher Johnson – D District - 13 Email: Chris.Johnson@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Judiciary; Government Oversight Committee		Senator Cathy Breen – D District - 25 Email: cathy.breen@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Environment and Natural Resources
	Senator Michael Willette – R District - 2 Email: mikeblackbear@gmail.com Committee Membership: Chair, State and Local Government		Senator Earle McCormick – R District - 14 Email: demccormick@tds.net Committee Membership: Chair, Taxation; Health and Human Services		Senator Bill Diamond – D District - 26 Email: diamondhollyd@aol.com Committee Membership: Transportation; Government Oversight Committee; Senatorial Vote
	Senator Rod Whittemore – R District - 3 Email: Rodwhittemore@gmail.com Committee Membership: Chair, Insurance and Financial Services		Senator Roger Katz – R District - 15 Email: Roger.Katz@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Chair, Government Oversight Committee; Senate Rules; Chair, Senatorial Vote		Senator Justin Alfond – R Representing Senate District 27 which includes part of Portland. Email: justin@justinalfond.com Personal Website: www.justinalfond.com Committee Membership: Senate Democratic Leader
	Senator Paul Davis – R District - 4 Email: sendavis@myottmail.com Committee Membership: Chair, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Taxation; Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules; Government Oversight Committee		Senator Scott Cyrway – R District - 16 Email: scyrway@roadrunner.com Committee Membership: Chair, Veterans and Legal Affairs; Inland Fisheries and Wildlife		Senator Anne Haskell – D District - 28 Email: anne.haskell@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Health and Human Services; Senate Conduct and Ethics
	Senator Jim Dill – D District - 5 Email: jdill@umext.maine.edu Committee Membership: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry		Senator Thomas Saviello – R District - 17 Email: drtom16@hotmail.com Committee Membership: Chair, Environment and Natural Resources; Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Chair, Bills in the Second Reading; Senatorial Vote		Senator Rebecca Millett – D District 29 Email: senrebeccamillett@gmail.com Committee Membership: Education and Cultural Affairs; Bills in the Second Reading
	Senator David Burns – R District - 6 Email: David.Burns@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Chair, Judiciary; Criminal Justice and Public Safety; Government Oversight Committee; Chair, Senate Conduct and Ethics		Senator John Patrick – D District - 18 Email: senjohnpatrick14@gmail.com Committee Membership: Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development; Veterans and Legal Affairs		Senator Amy Volk – D District - 30 Email: amy.volk@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Chair, Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development; Judiciary
	Senator Brian Langley – R District - 7 Email: Brian.Langley@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Chair, Education and Cultural Affairs; Marine Resources; Senate Conduct and Ethics		Senator James Hamper – R District - 19 Email: senatorhamp@gmail.com Committee Membership: Chair, Appropriations and Financial Affairs		Senator Linda Valentino – D District - 31 Email: senatorvalentino@gmail.com Committee Membership: Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senate Conduct and Ethics
	Senator Kim Rosen – R District - 8 Email: kimberley.rosen@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety; Transportation; Chair, Senate Engrossed Bills		Senator Eric Brakey – R District - 20 Email: sen.eric.brakey@gmail.com Committee Membership: Chair, Health and Human Services; Environment and Natural Resources		Senator David Dutremble – D District - 32 Email: ddutrem1@gmail.com Committee Membership: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Senate Engrossed Bills
	Senator Geoffrey Gratwick – D District - 9 Email: geoffrey.gratwick@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Insurance and Financial Services; Senate Engrossed Bills		Senator Nate Libby – D District - 21 Email: nathan.libby@gmail.com Committee Membership: State and Local Government; Taxation		Senator David Woodsome – R District - 33 Email: david.woodsome@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Chair, Energy, Utilities and Technology; State and Local Government; Senate Engrossed Bills
	Senator Andre Cushing – R District - 10 Email: andre@andrecushing.com Committee Membership: Assistant Senate Majority Leader; Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development; Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules; Senate Rules; Senatorial Vote		Senator Garrett Mason – R District - 22 Email: Garrett.Mason@legislature.maine.gov Committee Membership: Senate Republican Leader; Energy Utilities and Technology; Chair, Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules; Chair, Senate Rules; Senatorial Vote		Senator Ronald Collins – R District - 34 Email: RCollins7@maine.rr.com Committee Membership: Chair, Transportation; Veterans and Legal Affairs; Senate Conduct and Ethics
	President Michael Thibodeau - R District - 11 Email: senatorthibodeau@aol.com Legislative Website: mainesenepresident.com Committee Membership: President of the Senate		Senator Linda Baker – R District - 23 Email: bakersenate14@yahoo.com Committee Membership: Chair, Marine Resources; Insurance and Financial Services; Bills in the Second Reading		Senator Stan Gerzofsky – D District - 24 Email: stan1340@aol.com Committee Membership: Criminal Justice and Public Safety; Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules; Government Oversight Committee; Senate Rules; Senatorial Vote
	Senator Dave Miramant – D District - 12 Email: davemiramant@gmail.com Committee Membership: Marine Resources; Bills in the Second Reading				

Reform cont'd from page 1

Maine taxpayers are quick to help those truly in need. However, we must continue to advance reforms in state government to ensure the accountable and responsible use of every taxpayer dollar spent. The Governor's proposal to reform the General Assistance program is designed with that goal in mind.

Unfortunately, there are many loud voices opposing these common sense reforms in order to protect the status quo. That is why it is especially important for fiscally-minded, hardworking

Maine citizens to demand action on this important reform. When even just a few taxpayers speak out, state lawmakers listen. The Governor's GA reform is critical for fiscal accountability and making sure tax dollars are used for the neediest Mainers.

Mary Mayhew is Commissioner of Maine's Department of Health and Human Services under Governor Paul LePage.

If you would like to call or email your legislator to tell them you support the Governor's General Assistance initiatives, you can find their contact information by going to <http://legislature.maine.gov/>.

Food stamps cont'd from page 1

at the time. "We must protect our limited resources for those who are truly in need and who are doing all they can to be self-sufficient."

In 2013, Maine had one of the highest food stamp participation rates in the country, and was behind only Oregon and Mississippi in percentage of people utilizing the program.

But according to the most recent data from the USDA, Maine had about 211,513 people participating in the food stamp program in December 2014,

which is a more than 10% decrease from December 2013.

This most recent drop of 9,000 participants represents another 4.25% decrease in the Maine program's overall size.

A 2012 Rasmussen national poll found that while 83% of adults supported a work requirement for welfare recipients, only 7% flat-out opposed it.

Patrick Marvin is a Policy Analyst at The Maine Heritage Policy Center. He holds a Masters Degree from the University of New Hampshire, and has an extensive background in analysis and research.

OP ED

Bipartisan, respectful means justify my election as state treasurer

No one was coerced, bribed, cajoled or pressured to vote for me.

By Terri Hayes

I was elected to serve as Maine's first independent state treasurer last Dec 3. What made this remarkable was the path I traveled to get there and the variety of people who helped me along the way.

Eight years before, in December 2006, I was sworn in as a freshman Democratic legislator from eastern Oxford County. The voters of Buckfield, Hartford, Paris and Sumner elected me as their representative four times. And during my third term I was elected by the House Democrats as their assistant leader.

During my term in partisan leadership I learned some things that troubled me. The toughest lesson I encountered was that in the legislative arena, many of my partisan peers on both sides of the aisle firmly believed that the ends justify the means. This belief produced patterns of behavior that I saw as destructive to our professional relationships and to our state.

LEADERSHIP OUT OF CONTROL

"The toughest lesson I encountered was that in the legislative arena, many of my partisan peers on both sides of the aisle firmly believed that the ends justify the means. This belief produced patterns."

I found it fundamentally disrespectful of our colleagues. My final term in the House was spent observing legislative leadership, how the leaders interacted with their members, and especially how messaging was managed to those not directly involved in the day-to-day policy work under the State House dome. The theme was consistent, played out by all partisan leadership on a daily basis: The ends justify the means.

This meant that leadership and their staff would do whatever it took to win the vote count, both on the issues before the Legislature and at the ballot box. They approved and promoted misleading claims; they assigned inappropriate blame to their opponents; they bullied their own caucus members to ensure allegiance; they allowed non-elected allies to control policy agenda. No strategy was deemed inappropriate if it would generate the results leadership sought. Winning was all that mattered.

Back in 2008 I stumbled upon the Civility Pledge on the Internet and adopted it as my personal code. It has three simple statements:

- I will be civil in my public discourse and behavior.
- I will be respectful of others whether or not I agree with them.
- I will stand against incivility when I see it.

I had this printed on my legislative business cards. I collaborated with colleagues "on the other side of the aisle" to bring civility training to the State House on multiple occasions. I had a banner made for my office. I strived to live by this pledge daily (some days more successfully than others).

CAPITOL CULTURE NEEDS CHANGING

By the end of my final term I was convinced that the culture of the ends justify the means could not be challenged successfully within the partisan framework that constitutes the informal



Terri Hayes of Buckfield is the first independent elected to serve as state treasurer of Maine.

organization of our legislative branch. This culture destroys trust and professional respect. It pushes people further apart instead of seeking out points of agreement. And, unfortunately, it works too well with the partisan base on both sides of the aisle.

I decided to un-enroll as a Democrat following the election in November 2014. My politics hadn't shifted over the course of my legislative service, but my willingness to be tied to the strategies of my partisan leadership had ended. For me, the ends do not justify the means

Hayes cont'd on page 9

Police Critics Should Put Themselves in Officers' Shoes

By State Senators David Burns, Paul Davis, and Scott Cyrway

What has been taking place across the country since the unfortunate incident in Ferguson, Missouri should be deeply troubling to all of us: A small minority of vocal and in some cases lawless people have fanned the flames of anti-police rhetoric, the likes of which we have not seen in decades. Every reasonable person knows it is not "bad cops" who are the problem; it is misrepresentations of the facts that are the real injustice. Many of the nation's minority communities are being brutally victimized, but not by the police who are trying to protect them. Our criminal justice system works for all races, creeds and backgrounds.

Overall, the United States has the best trained, best equipped and most qualified men and women serving in all levels of law enforcement—better than anywhere in the world or in history. We all know there are still some "bad apples" and some wrongdoing in some situations, however, these are the rare exceptions and are not representative of the average peace officer. When the three of us started our law enforcement careers in the 1970s, there was some police corruption, mostly in large, metropolitan areas, however, most of that has been



Senator Scott Cyrway-R



Senator Paul Davis-R



Senator David Burns-R

"The policeman must be a minister, a social worker, a diplomat, a tough guy, and a gentleman. And of course he'll have to be a genius because he'll have to feed a family on a policeman's salary."

addressed and cleaned up through the system and through attrition.

We are proud of our chosen professions and our fellow officers. The media is only giving one side of the story and people are not hearing from the countless millions who have been helped by or appreciate their officers who have pledged to "serve and protect".

Three times within the past month, New York City police officers literally turned their backs on their boss, Mayor Bill de Blasio because of his lack of support for them that some say contributed to the killings of two New York City police officers.

While New York City and Ferguson may seem like faraway places, we are certain that every member of law enforcement here in Maine could identify with the Men in Blue in New York City.

Why? Because everyone who wears a badge can accept that danger is an inherent part of police work. They can accept that members of the public will sometimes be hostile to them.

What they cannot accept is their leader failing to support them and throwing his lot in with a mob that is recklessly accusing police officers of intentionally targeting people because of the color of their skin.

To those who think police are to blame for the recent unrest across the country, we would ask the following questions:

Have you ever looked into the face of a dead police officer who was killed by a driver who decided to run a roadblock?

Have you ever had a gun pointed at you by someone who was out of their mind on hallucinogenic drugs?

Did you ever have to go to the home of a police officer's wife at two in the morning to tell her that her husband died responding to a domestic violence call?

Have you ever tried to arrest a man half your size who just beat his wife or kids and do it without causing any physical harm to him, and at the same time keep him away from weapons or maybe take one away from him, while the children are screaming for help and the wife is screaming to "leave him alone"?

Have you ever had to arrest and interview a disturbed teenage girl who just shot and killed her mother, because she didn't think the Christmas present she wanted was under the tree?

We're guessing most would answer no to all of these questions. These are just a few of the experiences we've had while

Police cont'd on page 16

Brian Bolduc: Put an end to the campaign of hate

Brian Bolduc
Lewiston Sun Journal
Saturday, March 28, 2015

"Enough is enough!" — Robert Macdonald.

Why would a Democrat from Auburn quote a Republican mayor from Lewiston? Because it is long past time both parties grew up and stop with the "gotcha" politics.

Recently, attacks have been laid against Republican Sen. Michael Willette by Democratic Party officials. Personal attacks and hit pieces, all because of a joke on Facebook, have no place in politics. Why do we care what meme someone reposts on Facebook? Calls for resignation are nothing short of absurd. I know because I have been on the opposite end of the firing line by the Republican machinery.

Maine has a part-time Legislature with very little financial incentive for membership. Do citizen legislators really need to be run down in that manner?

Ultimately, the effect that those vicious attacks have is not to change policy or to even contribute to serious policy debate in Augusta; rather, such attacks serve to make people uneasy about serving in politics. Then, the entire Legislature will be in the hands of scared people who never take risks and never have an original thought of their own. Then, the leadership can control the agenda rather than have healthy debate.

I served two terms with Michael Willette. In his first term he was a Democrat and he was considered great. Suddenly, even though Willette's positions and humor did not change, he was the enemy.

Really?

For some history, the hit piece that started the media avalanche against Sen. Willette was written by Mike Tipping, who, is an employee of the Maine People's Alliance. Tipping is also the man behind the mailer last year calling Rep. Dale Crafts "spineless" and afraid to "stand up" to the governor. Rep. Crafts, of Lisbon, another fine Republican who — though I hardly ever voted with — is one

Diagnosis and Prescription for:

Representative Dale Crafts(R-Lisbon Falls)

Ailments:

- No Heart** - Voted to deny health care to 70,000 Mainers
- No Spine** - Failed to stand up to Gov. LePage's bullying

Prescription: New Leadership in Augusta Date filled: November 4, 2014

Signed: *The Voters of Maine*

Paid for by the Maine People's Alliance

Diagnosis and Prescription for:

Senator Garrett Mason (R-Androscoggin)

Ailments:

- No Heart** - Voted to deny health care to 70,000 Mainers
- No Spine** - Failed to stand up to Gov. LePage

Prescription: New Leadership in Augusta Date filled: November 4, 2014

Signed: *The Voters of Maine*

Paid for by the Maine People's Alliance

Maine People's Alliance attacks wheelchair-bound Republican for failing to "stand up" to LePage By Steve Robinson on May 2, 2014

The Maine People's Alliance, a left-wing advocacy group based in Portland, has attacked Rep. Dale Crafts (R-Lisbon Falls) for voting against proposals to expand Medicaid.

A mailer distributed in Crafts' district by the MPA describes Crafts' ailments: "No Spine - Failed to stand up to Gov. LePage's bullying".

Crafts, who is also a member of the Lisbon Town Council, is bound to a wheelchair.

DAMNING evidence: Notice the Crafts' mailer was specifically changed from every other one sent. Proving someone made a conscience effort to recognize Rep. Crafts was unique but then deciding to send the offensive and insulting piece nonetheless.

of the best and bravest men I know. He is also in a wheelchair.

Now while I mostly agree with the progressive agenda of the MPA, I disagree with their strategy. Their scorched-earth philosophy of "hate Republicans at all costs" is only damaging to the Democratic party. Democrats should not be winning through hate; we need to win through policy and debate. That is the purpose of government.

But the buck doesn't stop there. If only the public understood there are full-time state employees who are called

partisan communication staffers. Their job is to take advantage of and publicly attempt to humiliate legislators from the opposite party. Add to this list the people getting paid by the political parties and special interest groups to do the same and it's a wonder why most people don't tune in to politics.

Legislators are people. They get frustrated. They blow off steam. They make mistakes. That is no reason to destroy a legislator's reputation and livelihood and embarrass their families. Republican pitbulls

Hayes cont'd from page 8

- my relationships with and my respect for my colleagues are too valuable to me.

Coincidentally, another opportunity presented itself in the aftermath of the November 2014 election — the numeric gap between the Democrats and Republicans in the Maine Legislature had narrowed, making the prospect of being elected state treasurer possible

if I could secure the support of colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

I would need all of the Republicans' support and more than a handful of votes from the Democrats/Independents in order to win.

So how did a termed-out Democratic legislator secure the nomination of the joint Republican caucus for the job of state treasurer? By earning the respect of my colleagues

through my actions and words throughout my eight years of service; by being trustworthy; by treating my colleagues — all of them — with respect and civility.

On Dec. 3, 2014 more than half of the members of the Maine Legislature voted for me to serve as state treasurer for the next two years. My only promise to all was that I would not serve as a Republican treasurer nor as a Democratic treasurer, but as an independent treasurer. No one was coerced, bribed, cajoled or



Brian Bolduc is a former state legislator representing Auburn and currently the Androscoggin County Register of Probate. He lives in Auburn.

To put things into perspective. Mike Willette reposted a silly meme and made an offhand comment everyone knew was a joke on his personal Facebook page. I'm certain President Obama has think enough skin to endure one more meme making fun of him on Facebook. Mike Tipping, on the other hand, spent thousands of dollars mailing the friends and relatives of Dale Crafts mocking a man in a wheel chair for not being able to stand. This is a reprehensible act and utterly disgusting. Tipping's faux outrage is exactly the kind of hypocritical display that make people nauseated by disgusting attack dogs like him and ultimately have made the once respectable Maine People's Alliance a joke.

called for my resignation last year over an angry private email I sent about truckers. The press extensively reported on it and, at the time, it seemed like the end of the world to me. Yet this past November, I received more votes in Androscoggin County than any Democratic candidate in the county. When I saw the chairman of the Democratic Party calling for Sen. Willette's resignation, I called Willette to tell him that it's none of the chairman's business. The flap was between him and the voters. I'll bet he does well next November.

If we are truly going to change the political climate and get back to issues, someone needs to be the first to throw down. I am happy to be that person. It is time for the real leaders in both parties (not the ones with titles), to demand a higher standard of discourse from our party leadership.

Any coward can call out the opposition to score political points. If we want to truly make our country work again, real leaders need to step forward and call out our own side. Until then, nothing will change.

I am a proud Democrat and I believe in the Democratic Party principles, but until we stop with these childish hate-based politics, I will continue to be a vocal critic.

Enough is enough.

pressured to vote for me.

I am honored to be Maine's first independent treasurer because of the path my journey to this role has taken. At the end of every session, we all continue to live and work here, making our relationships important to our future success. I endeavor to serve all of Maine to the best of my ability, attending to the process and the people, not just the product. I invite others to join me.

TAX RELIEF FOR MAINE SENIORS

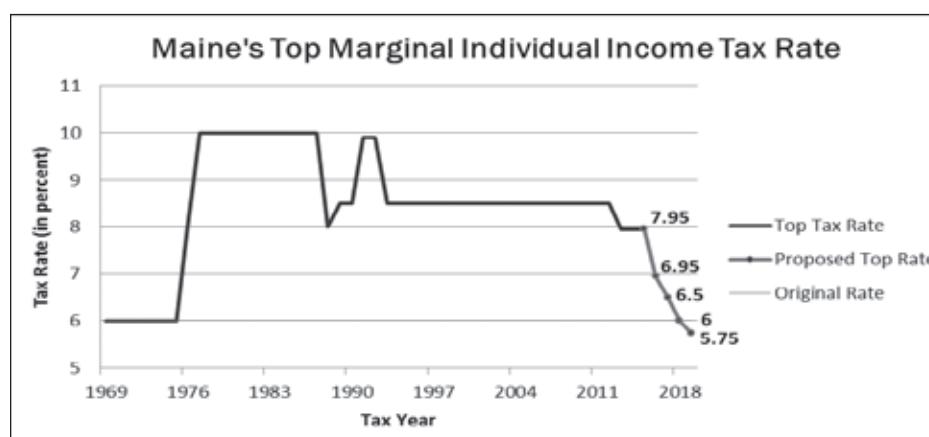
Property Tax Relief for Maine Families

Municipal revenue sharing has failed to deliver meaningful property tax relief. A new approach is needed to provide direct, targeted property tax relief to Maine tax payers, while continuing the spirit of cooperation that exists between the state and its towns and cities.

Governor LePage's comprehensive tax reform proposal:

Reduces the tax burden on Maine families by \$300 million. Governor LePage's tax cut plan will reduce the top income tax rate for individuals from 7.95 percent to 6.95 percent in the first year of the plan. By 2019, the top rate will be 5.75 percent—the lowest rate since Maine established its income tax—reducing the income tax by 40 percent since the Governor took office.

Allows Maine's towns and cities to collect property tax from large nonprofits. Municipalities will be



given the authority to collect tax revenue from large non-profit entities. The growth of non-profits in our communities and their use of municipal services requires them to contribute to the municipalities where they are located.

Transfers the telecommunications excise tax to municipalities. State telecommunications excise tax revenue collection will be transferred to municipalities to assist in broadening their property tax base. The excise tax

is a state level tax that generates approximately \$9 million per year and can be transferred to the local level with little or no burden on current taxpayers.

Provides property tax relief directly to Maine families. Because the reasons for burdensome property taxes vary across the state, property tax relief programs should focus on individual homeowners, not municipalities. The governor's plan increases the maximum property tax fairness

credit from \$900 to \$1,500 for a filer over 65 and increases it from \$600 to \$1,000 for a filer under the age of 65, providing direct property tax relief to Maine families.

Helps seniors stay in their homes. Governor LePage's tax cut plan doubles the homestead exemption and protects seniors from local property tax increases by exempting the first \$20,000 of home value from taxation.

The governor's bold proposal ensures tax relief is provided directly to the Maine people. The spirit of cooperation between the state and municipalities must be a two-way street. State government must ensure it is efficient in its delivery of services; so must local government. The current revenue sharing formula does not take efficiency into account. The state continues to invest heavily in local partnership programs, such as education, transportation and others.

Helping Maine's Senior Citizens

Maine seniors will see more money in their checking accounts. Mainers change their residence after retirement due to the high taxes on pension benefits relative to other states. To make it more affordable for Mainers to stay here in retirement, pension income, up to \$35,000, will be exempt from state income tax.

Honoring our Veterans: Military pension benefits will be completely exempt from state income tax beginning in 2016. With this reform, Maine will join the 22 other states that honor their veterans by not taxing their pensions. This will encourage retired veterans of all ages to reside in Maine as well as those launching second careers.

This plan protects Maine seniors' nest eggs, their family businesses and farms by eliminating the estate tax. By stopping the death tax, Maine seniors no longer have to flee to tax haven states, and small businesses can continue to operate and keep employing Mainers now and for generations to come.

This plan helps seniors stay in their homes. By doubling the homestead exemption this plan allows for seniors to be guarded from local property tax increases, giving an exemption on the first \$20,000 of home value.

Providing property tax relief directly to the taxpayer. Because the reasons for bur-

densome property taxes vary across the state, property tax relief programs should focus on individual homeowners instead of municipalities. This budget increases the maximum property tax fairness credit from \$900 to \$1,500 for a filer over 65, giving direct property tax relief to Maine seniors. These property tax programs are designed to help Mainers age in their homes with dignity.

The LePage Tax Cut Plan is a bold new initiative to make Maine a more attractive home for young retirees to launch a second career and for seniors to retire in comfort.

- Cut the tax burden by \$300 million for Mainers.
- Cut taxes on all pensions.
- Eliminate taxes on military pensions.
- Repeal Maine's estate tax.
- Double the homestead exemption for Mainers over 65.
- Expand Property Tax Fairness Credit to provide direct property tax relief to people on fixed incomes.
- Establish a sales tax fairness credit to offset sales tax burden.

Senator David Burns Leads Efforts to Assist Maine's Aging Population



Senator David Burns-R

Augusta — At a press conference held today, Senator David Burns (R-Washington) joined Speaker Mark Eves (D-N Berwick) to speak about legislation to help Maine's aging population. Senator Burns and Speaker Eves co-chair the Legislature's bipartisan Caucus on Aging.

In addition to his work with the Caucus on Aging and his support of the proposed bond to ensure Maine's seniors have access to affordable housing, Senator Burns is sponsoring several bills aimed at solving issues Maine's older populations face.

"Washington County has one of the highest populations of senior citizens in the state, and that's a major reason why I'm so involved in these issues," said Senator Burns. "I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the affordable housing bond, but also recognize there are other areas in which Maine can improve its policy to help seniors. That is why I'll be sponsoring several pieces of legislation this session to address a variety of needs for seniors."

Among the legislation Senator Burns is sponsoring is a measure to increase reimbursement rates for Private NonMedical Institutions, as well as a measure to expand access to adult family care homes in Washington County. A member

of the Legislature's Long Term Care Commission, Senator Burns is also a co-sponsor of the legislation suggested by the Commission.

"I'm glad that we have a group of lawmakers from different regions and different political parties ready to make a difference for Maine's seniors,"

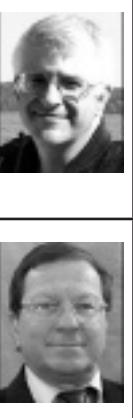
"I'm glad that we have a group of lawmakers from different regions and different political parties ready to make a difference for Maine's seniors," said Senator Burns. "From aging in place to ensuring our nursing facilities are adequately funded, we have a lot of work to do. Part of making sure Maine's seniors have what they need is as basic as strengthening our economy – a stronger economy means more resources for those in need. That's at the forefront of my legislative priorities, and will also help shape how I approach seniors' issues."

Senator Burns is serving his second term in the Maine State Senate. He serves the people of District 6, which is made up of Washington County and part of Hancock County.

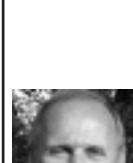
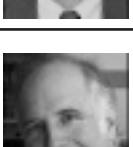
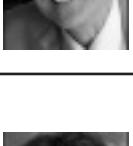
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Requiring Photo ID to Vote Protects Our Democracy

There is no question that our right to vote is fundamental to our freedom. It only makes sense, then, that we should do what we can to protect that right.

Given the media firestorm that we experienced over the Senate District 25 election recount, this bill is particularly timely. We need to keep in mind that the power of our democracy is derived from participation in the electoral process. Cynicism about our system of government should be addressed; we should not give the media reason to print headlines decrying the results of our elections based on party preference and knee-jerk reactions to skewed information.

We're fortunate in Maine – we have small towns and small communities where everyone knows each other. But that only goes so far. People move in and out of towns in today's world, and they do so often. College students travel from state to state, and clerks and election volunteers simply can't be expected to know everyone who walks in to vote.

That's where the simple action

of presenting an ID comes in. An action people undertake every day to buy alcohol, buy cigarettes, rent a car, board a flight, get a marriage license, get a tattoo, get a hotel room, buy R-rated movie tickets, or cash a check.

In 31 states, some form of identification is required to vote. Courts have regularly upheld the legality of requiring a photo ID to vote, and 74% of Americans polled by Rasmussen support some form of voter identification requirement.

A lot of folks already think it's a requirement to show your driver's license or other photo ID to vote in Maine. I've heard from volunteers that many people show up to vote, and not only give their name to the person checking them in, but also have their driver's license ready to hand over. If people expect it already, implementing this law would be a fairly simple transition.

Opposition to the voter ID requirement has been mostly partisan in nature in recent years. A committee vote in 2011 on a similar proposal in the Legislature saw all five Democrats



on the panel vote in opposition.

One of the primary arguments coming from Democrats against requiring a photo ID to vote is that the cost is prohibitive. Well, the bill I've presented to the Legislature this year addresses that by requiring the Secretary of State to provide non-drivers license IDs to citizens who cannot afford to purchase a state ID. This will mean the bill will have a cost, but to me protecting our democracy is a cost worth incurring. What do we have left if we can't trust those leading our government were fairly elected?

The legislation also doesn't fully prevent people who don't have an ID from voting. Instead, they would cast a provisional ballot. In crafting this legislation, I've taken great care to ensure we are protecting the integrity of our election system while protecting citizens' right to vote.

I'm hopeful we can get this common sense measure through the Legislature this year. In order to protect all other freedoms, we must protect and defend our election system.

COMMENTARY

How Misinformation Pollutes Public Policy

At its best, research can be the backbone of policymaking. It can provide the numbers that illuminate problems for lawmakers intent on solving them, and can either prove or disprove the wisdom of proposals made by leaders of all political persuasions and parties.

At worst, though, it can be a maddening game of telephone, where bad or misleading numbers spread like wildfire, and are then used to make critically important policy decisions for tens of thousands of people.

Take for instance, the case of the minimum wage, and Bangor City Councilor Joe Baldacci.

On Friday afternoon, Baldacci began to post on Facebook his interest in pushing a local ordinance in the city of Bangor that would increase the minimum wage. Specifically, Baldacci claimed, "an increase in the minimum wage from to say \$8.50 next year and \$9.50 in 2016 would put more money in people's pockets that would be spent locally many times. And its [sic] very unlikely to discourage any businesses from coming to Bangor."

More money for everyone and no negative consequences to consider at all. Wonderful.

But Baldacci wasn't done. He then posted this whopper:

Immediately, I noticed that he made the claim that one in four workers in the 2nd Congressional District was on minimum wage. Maine is, of course, a poor state, but that number seemed absurdly high. So I asked Baldacci where he got his numbers from.

"Its coming from an article in the BDN this weekend."

When I pressed further for the actual source of the claim, Baldacci cited this column in the Bangor Daily News by Heather Denkmire, an artist and writer from Portland who wrote about how important she felt raising the minimum wage was.

Interestingly, Denkmire did in fact claim in her column that a high number of workers — 23 percent — in Maine's 2nd Congressional District were working on minimum wage. Her citation for that claim was a recent blog post by the Maine Center for Economic Policy, which made the same claim.

That claim, in turn, was based on a report by Oxfam America, a progressive advocacy group that deals with issues of poverty and hunger.

However, that report did not claim that 23 percent of workers in the 2nd Congressional District were living on minimum wage. Instead, the report attempts to find the number of "low-wage workers", which for Oxfam's purposes is defined as those earning \$11.50 per hour or less, which is obviously significantly

higher (\$4 an hour more) than the current minimum wage in Maine (\$7.50). That number of "low-wage workers?" 23 percent, of course.

So, if you are having trouble

opinions on not only bad data, but outright misrepresented data, and when the facts are so diametrically opposed to the reality created by the faulty data, it has frightening consequences for laws and ordinances made in

ones who can withstand the additional cost, essentially eliminating their small-business competition for them.

In the real world, decisions on issues such as the minimum wage have costs, and benefits. Policy makers are in the unenviable position of weighing those costs against those benefits, so that they can make the right choices to create better communities, and a better state.

But when they can't even get the basic facts right because of the irresponsible perpetuation of bad data, the decision making process suffers, and bad policy results.

And make no mistake, despite the intoxicatingly easy, emotional argument made by proponents, a raise in the minimum wage is not good policy. It results in fewer workers being employed, a very small number of people seeing their wages go up, higher prices, and expanding costs to already struggling small businesses.

The only real solution for Maine's persistent poverty is economic growth. Mainers don't need fewer minimum wage jobs, they need more high paying jobs. People stuck in persistent underemployment and low-wage careers need the potential for higher earnings and economic mobility. That comes from a developed, diversified economy that places a priority on jobs that pay more.

Getting there is no easy task. The problems preventing Maine solving the problem of low-wages are pervasive. It will take a complete reimagining of the public education system, rebuilding higher education, and more effectively connecting it to the local economy, a more sensible regulatory environment for business, a more competitive tax system at all levels, a more flexible labor environment, a cheaper energy market, and a militant focus on attracting businesses to Maine.

In short, economic development is a more difficult, long-view solution for the problem when compared to the siren song of easy answers, like raising the minimum wage. But it is also the only solution that has any realistic hope of improving the circumstances of Maine people who are currently stuck in poverty, and it is time policymakers took the issue seriously.

Matthew Gagnon, of Yarmouth, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Maine Heritage Policy Center. Prior to his tenure at MHPC, Matt spent eight years working in national politics in Washington, D.C., most recently as a senior strategist for the Republican Governors Association. A Hampden native, Matt is a nationally recognized political strategist and communicator.

And make no mistake, despite the intoxicatingly easy, emotional argument made by proponents, a raise in the minimum wage is not good policy.

following, a liberal interest group group (Oxfam) released data that showed 23 percent of Mainers in the 2nd Congressional District made less than \$11.50 an hour. Maine Center for Economic Policy saw that study, and either intentionally misrepresented what the report said, or was so lax in their research standards that they misread (and didn't check) what the report said, and then claimed it said 23 percent of 2nd District citizens

Maine.

Make no mistake, Maine is poor, and poverty is a tragic problem here. As The Maine Heritage Policy Center highlighted last month, Maine workers earn an average of just \$26,464 per year, and over 35% of our population is classified as "low income." Maine is even ranked a dismal 32nd in the country for median household income. There is no question that low wages are a problem.



Joe Baldacci
3 hrs · Edited ·

Before I initiate any local ordinance on raising the minimum wage I want to first initiate a free open public and community discussion to some extent on this matter. I understand this will not win me any popularity points but I also think its very much a discussion that is very much worth having. as has been noted 1 out 4 workers in the Second District- which Bangor and the Bangor labor market is a big part of- are earning the minimum wage. We certainly need more and better jobs but the minimum wage which has been around since 1938 and has not obviously hampered America's macro economy in any way-today's min wage is lower after inflation than it was in the 70s. I dont know about you but I have always believed that people deserve a decent wage for a decent day's work and that they like all of us have a right to employment to help support their families. So lets discuss away and see where this leads us. Thanks, Joe

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were working on the minimum wage. That was then picked up by a liberal artisan in Portland who wrote a column that cited it, which was seen by a Bangor City Councilor who now wants to make a local ordinance in the city based off the faulty data.

Baldacci and no one along the chain had the intellectual curiosity or integrity to check the absurdly misleading numbers they were regurgitating to the public to justify the policy solution they were recommending.

What is the truth?

According to a report in March 2014 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are only 13,000 workers — statewide — currently earning the minimum wage or below. 4,000 making minimum wage, 9,000 making below (who presumably wouldn't be subject to any hike anyway).

Quite a different picture than one in four people in just the 2nd District.

This may seem trite, but it isn't. When policy makers are basing their initiatives and

But when the entire economy of Maine — or in this case, the economy of the city of Bangor — are negatively impacted to hike the wage of such a small subsection of Maine workers, we are left with a punitive mess.

Large businesses, particularly big box stores run by megacorporations, will easily absorb the cost of marginally higher wages. Local small businesses, on the other hand, will be forced into difficult choices. Will they let an employee go to afford the higher cost of labor for low-skill jobs? Will they keep their employees, but raise prices to attempt to make up the difference, thereby making them even less competitive on price than the big box stores and online retailers like Amazon?

Fewer jobs, struggling employers, and higher prices are not good for the poor in any way.

The truth is, an ordinance such as the one suggested by Baldacci will continue the trend of squeezing small, local businesses out of town, and leaving large box-store retailers as the only

SETTING PRIORITIES

Healthy Maine partner expenditures raises eyebrows

Maine Voices: Healthy Maine Partnerships approves eyebrow-raising expenditures

The group said 'no' to some requests for anti-smoking materials and funded a free lunch instead.

BY Rep. DEB SANDERSON

CHELSEA — Much of the discussion and debate among legislators these days surrounds Gov. LePage's budget proposal, with the lion's share of the media attention focused on members of the Appropriations Committee. After all, they're the ones who will decide how the state's limited resources are allocated.

One of the most contentious pieces of the governor's budget is his proposal to redirect \$10 million annually from the Fund for a Healthy Maine to maintain reimbursement rates for primary care physicians under the state's MaineCare program. A seemingly never-ending parade of advocacy groups has since descended on the State House to tell the Appropriations Committee why the panel needs to continue funding their existence.

For those who don't know, the Fund for a Healthy Maine is the result of a lawsuit filed against the tobacco industry and nets the state of Maine roughly \$52 million to \$54 million annually. A large portion of these funds is supposed to be targeted at smoking-cessation efforts and anti-substance abuse and anti-obesity initiatives through vehicles that include the Healthy Maine Partnerships.

Healthy Maine Partnerships propaganda touts, among other "milestone achievements," the fact that 42 percent of day care centers posted signs indicating that the grounds were smoke-free. I was curious why they would be trumpeting a number that, in my opinion, was 58 percent shy of the target mark.

Healthy Maine Partnerships funds



Deb Sanderson of Chelsea is a third-term Republican state representative whose district includes Chelsea, Jefferson, Whitefield and part of Nobleboro

have become the holy grail to Democrats in the Legislature, who have historically fought to ensure the money is funneled to the same black holes year after year.

But I've heard reports that shed some light on how some of these funds are – and, equally as important, are not – being spent.

A Maine middle school wanted to use Healthy Maine Partnerships money to purchase what is known as a "smoking doll," which contains removable filters to demonstrate for students the tar and particulate matter that builds up in a smoker's lungs. They were told they could not use the money for that.

Perplexed but undeterred, they suggested spending the money on mini-texts to be used in health classes to help reinforce the dangers of smoking. They were told that the money could not be used for that, either. How about instructional videos and/or software focused on the ills of tobacco use? Nope. Smoking-cessation classes for the staff? No.

What finally passed muster?

Subway sandwiches for staff meetings.

A school district was annually awarded \$15,000 from Healthy Maine Partnerships to spend on "health-related items." One principal in the district volunteered to monitor the grant money, which he originally planned to spend on anti-smoking signage.

This particular campus had a strict "no tobacco" policy already in place, developed by the district school board in consultation with the Maine School Management Association and an attorney.

Administrators at Healthy Maine Partnerships demanded that the district change its policy to match their language. The school board refused, as it already had a strict policy and had no intention of wasting time and money creating a whole new policy to appease an outside organization with no authority over the district.

Healthy Maine Partnerships officials chose to play hardball and refused to provide the signage for the district. The school district continued with its

current policy and bought its own "No Smoking" signs.

"Three years later (Healthy Maine Partnerships) sent the signs up, saying they weren't doing much good sitting on a shelf. I agreed, thanked them, and we put the signs up," the district's former superintendent said.

Above all, in light of the debate surrounding welfare abuse and the push to create measures of accountability for both recipients and providers, we cannot forget to also hold accountable those who administer anti-smoking and other health initiatives like the Healthy Maine Partnerships. When resources are limited, every penny needs to be spent effectively toward targeted initiatives – not toward a free lunch.

— Special to the Press Herald

Police cont'd from page 8

serving in law enforcement here in Maine.

When we see someone wearing a military uniform, we say, appropriately, "Thank you for your service." But many of us are old enough to remember how badly society treated troops who came back to the States after serving in South East Asia. We see the potential for the same thing happening here in the U.S. today.

In the words of Paul Harvey, "The policeman must be a minister, a social worker, a diplomat, a tough guy, and a gentleman. And of course he'll have to be a genius because he'll have to feed a family...on a policeman's salary."

Senator David Burns is a retired Maine state trooper who represents Senate District 6. Senator Paul Davis is also a retired Maine state trooper who represents Senate District 4. Senator Scott Cyrway is a retired Kennebec County Sheriff's Deputy who represents Senate District 16.

Senator Brian Langley Lauds Passage of Education Legislation



Augusta — The Maine Legislature today passed a measure to bring Maine into compliance with federal education regulations.

Sponsored by Senator Peter Edgecomb (R-Aroostook), LD 692, "An Act Regarding Educator Effectiveness," brings Maine into compliance with nine areas of federal education requirements. In August 2013, Maine was formally granted a two-year waiver from school improvement provisions of

the law; LD 692 extends that waiver. This flexibility from the U.S. Department of Education allows Maine to implement its own statewide plan to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, and increase the quality of instruction.

"I am pleased this legislation passed today," said Senator Brian Langley (R-Hancock), Chair of the Legislature's Education Committee. "It will allow Maine to continue making decisions and implementing policy at the state level, giving us the ability to address issues of particular concern to Maine schools."

The measure directs school administrative units to use state assessment data for English language arts and math as a measure of performance.

The federal government had previously listed nine areas in which Maine needed to make adjustments in order to continue receiving a waiver.

The measure directs school administrative units to use state assessment data for English language arts and math as a measure of performance for teachers and as a measure of performance for principals. It also adds an additional component to the rules regarding monitoring of the performance evaluation and professional growth systems. The bill also directs the Department of Education to amend its rules regarding performance evaluation.