



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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PAUL R. LEPAGE

GOVERNOR

Dear Citizens of Maine:

For the past eight years as your Governor, my priority has been to make Maine prosperous. I am proud to say that my administration has had some success, but there is more that can be done.

Mainers experienced strong, record-setting economic growth in 2018, setting so many new records: a record-high number of employers; a record-high number of private-sector jobs; record-high revenues for the state; record-low unemployment; and the fastest net-earnings growth in New England. Our poverty rate declined to the lowest since 2005 with the fewest number of children in poverty in 17 years. Maine's future is the brightest it has been in decades: there's more new businesses, more money in your paycheck, and better opportunities for our children. And that's what it's all about: the future of our state.


We have brought stability to state finances and implemented pro-business, pro-growth policies across state government. The incoming administration is taking on a state government that is vastly improved—both structurally and financially—from the one I inherited. Therefore, I have suggested to the new administration that now is the time to cut taxes by an additional 20 percent.

My administration lowered taxes by 20 percent for more than half-a-million Mainers. Cutting taxes for our families has proven to be an excellent policy decision. Despite this cut, we are seeing higher revenue in almost every tax category—sales and use tax, individual income tax, and corporate income tax. We must always remember that the revenue we receive in taxes is due to the hard work of Maine's people. Democrats stated they want to use surplus money to fully fund revenue sharing at 5 percent, rather than the 2 percent the towns have received for the past 6 years. **However, there is no guarantee your local government will cut your property taxes by one penny—never mind dollar-for-dollar—if revenue sharing is increased.**

The people of Maine and the municipal balance sheets would be better off if the state cut income taxes and allowed municipalities to collect property taxes or service fees from non-profits to supplement the local property taxes. Everyone should contribute to the operation of local community governments.

I encourage you to pay attention to what happens in your municipality and in Augusta. So many good people have worked much too hard to achieve our current prosperity. We must avoid letting politicians drive Maine's finances and its economy back into the ground. I promise you that I will be watching.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor

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