

2013

# Moving Maine Forward - Governor Paul R. LePage Accomplishments: January 2011 - October 2013

Office of Governor Paul LePage

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# MOVING MAINE FORWARD

**MORE JOBS**

**LOWER TAXES**

**WELFARE REFORM**

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

**TRANSPARENCY**

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
IMPROVEMENTS**

**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**BETTER BUSINESS CLIMATE**

**EDUCATION REFORM**

**RESPECT FOR VETERANS**



## Governor Paul R. LePage

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS: JANUARY 2011 – OCTOBER 2013**

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PHOTO BY JIM BOWDOIN

*The LePage Family gathered in the Blaine House.*

**“ My vision for Maine**  
*is to create prosperity through a*  
**lower overall tax burden**  
*for residents and businesses; a*  
**smaller, more efficient government**  
*that we can afford; and a*  
**manageable welfare system**  
*that is a safety net for the*  
*truly needy – not a free for all. ”*

**Paul R. LePage**  
*Governor of Maine*



# JOB

Passed the  
**LARGEST  
TAX CUT**  
**\$400  
million**  
in Maine's  
history for  
hardworking  
taxpayers  
& job creators

**8,000**

more jobs have been  
created in the private  
sector since Governor  
LePage took office

**3,000**

fewer Mainers  
are unemployed  
than at the same  
time last year

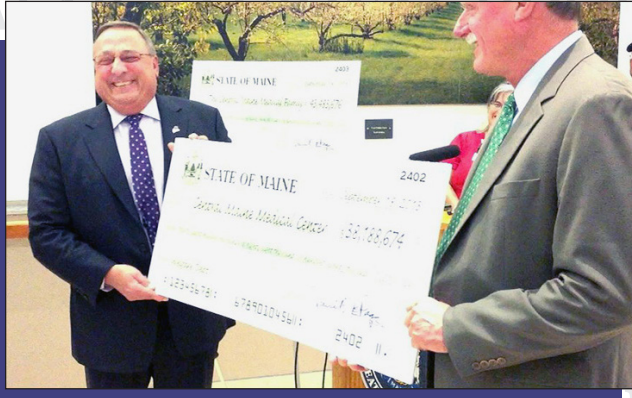
- Stopped the **AUTOMATIC** increase of the gas tax to save drivers money, putting more money in the pockets of Mainers.
- **Reduced electricity costs by \$74 million** annually for Maine people and job creators, with the help of technical expertise that was brought to the Public Utilities Commission and the Public Advocates Office.
- Created a Maine Capitol Investment Credit to provide **\$31 million in immediate tax relief** for investments made in Maine by job creators.
- According to Thumbtack.com small business friendliness survey published in Governing Magazine, Maine improved from an F to a B+ in terms of **“friendliness of environmental regulations”** under the LePage Administration.
- Created “Account Executives” to **help job creators navigate state and local government.**
- **Helped family-owned, small Maine businesses** by increasing the threshold on the death tax from \$1 million to \$2 million.
- Initiated the Heat Pump Pilot Program to **reduce heating costs for Maine families and businesses.**
- Maximized natural resource economic opportunities in Maine by reorganizing three state agencies into the **Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to focus on job creation.**
- Passed legislation that **increased profits for Maine small businesses** dealing in the spirits industry, while **lowering the price of spirits for consumers.**
- **Eliminated the sales tax on fuel** for commercial fishing vessels in the Gulf of Maine.
- Expanded access to natural gas for Maine people and businesses and **lowered energy costs**; Natural Gas Working Group will expand energy options.



Governor LePage visits W.A. Fine Furniture in Wilton.

*“Microenterprises start small, but can grow into large businesses. We must support these growing businesses because they are a critical driver of our economy.”*

# PAID THE HOSPITALS



Governor Paul R. LePage presents a ceremonial check for \$38,188,674 to Peter Chalke, CEO and President of Central Maine Healthcare.

Governor LePage introduced and successfully passed legislation to pay Maine's 39 hospitals the \$490 million debt they were owed from the last expansion of welfare, protecting good-paying jobs and encouraging capital improvements.

# PAID



Scan code to see video of Governor LePage presenting check to CMMC.



John Dalton, CEO of Inland Hospital in Waterville, accepts a ceremonial check for \$9,460,493 from Governor Paul R. LePage.

# \$490,200,000

# JOB

## Job Snapshot:

# 400 Jobs

*In August 2013 alone, about 400 jobs were created in businesses large and small.*

### BARCLAYCARD

• **100 jobs** this year in Wilton; 100 more in 2014.

### IRVING FOREST PRODUCTS

• **60 jobs** at new sawmill.

### MAINE WOOD CONCEPTS

• **30 jobs** and capital to expand product lines.

### AMERIDIAL

• **90 new hires** in the teleservices field at its Fort Kent facility.

### MOLNLYCKE HEALTH CARE

• **10 to 30 jobs** in \$7 million expansion at Rynel facility in Wiscasset. 45 people to be employed at Brunswick Landing.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

**Cousineau Wood Products.** \$150,000 for equipment; **6 jobs.**

**Prospect Holding and Maine Fair Trade Lobster.** \$500,000 for equipment; **90 jobs.**

**Milo Taxi and Delivery.** \$60,000 for garage construction; **2 jobs.**

- Reduced a fee on the sale of home heating oil and gasoline, **pumped \$5.5 million into Maine's economy.**
- Governor's Account Executives **provided assistance to over 550 potential new and expanding businesses.**
- New law offers **health insurance relief to "micro-businesses"** of less than five employees, easing the cost of doing business on Maine's job creators.
- Investments by the MaineDOT in the International Marine Terminal in Portland **attracted Eimskip, the Icelandic cargo shipping company.**
- Introduced legislation to **provide minors more access to employment opportunities** and to develop work skills.
- Enacted legislation to streamline mining regulations, providing the opportunity for **hundreds of good-paying jobs in rural Maine.**
- Spearheaded a regional effort with Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island to **expand the use of hydropower in Maine.**
- Signed legislation that **provides Maine businesses with greater access to capital** during expansions or relocations.
- New **Land Use Planning Commission** assures local decision making occurs in the unorganized territories and **promotes economic development.**
- In the first half of 2013, DECD approved applications to support **\$358 million in private investment, \$14 million in payroll and potentially 300 new jobs.**
- One-stop shopping is available for new and beginning farmers through the collaborative **"Beginner Farmer Resource Network of Maine,"** providing information, workshops and direct technical assistance.



Governor LePage tours Bath Iron Works.

**GOVERNOR  
LEADS TRADE  
MISSION TO  
China  
\$2.5 MILLION  
OF EXPORT SALES  
PROJECTED IN NEXT  
12 months**



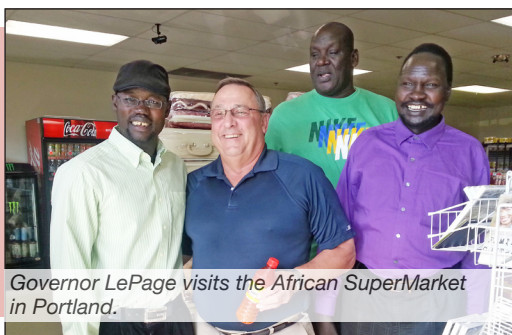
# JOB



*“The Certified Business-Friendly Community Program is a step toward partnering with businesses, ensuring they have the tools they need to expand and create jobs in Maine.”*

- Established the **“Business Friendly Community”** program to help local municipalities become **“Open for Business”** and make them a key part of Maine’s business attraction strategy.
- Regulatory reform **streamlined licensing and permitting** for job creators.
- **Reformed Maine’s workforce investment system** to maximize resources spent on training individuals.
- **Extended the exemption on sales and use tax for aircraft parts** to 2033, resulting in jobs and expansions at companies such as C&L Aerospace and Northeast Air.
- Created a **Labor Department Employer Newsletter** to update businesses about regulatory changes and promote cost-saving services.
- Provided **\$3 million in disaster relief** payment to all dairy farms in Maine.
- Enacted **Unemployment Insurance reform** to ensure that the money paid in by Maine’s job creators is used appropriately.
- **The Workers Compensation Board adopted a medical fee schedule**, providing good health care access for injured workers and controlling costs for employers.
- Teamed up with the Office of Tourism and the Maine Campground Owners Association to **increase tourism and promote Maine’s great outdoors**.

*“It is critical that government at all levels work with job creators—not against them.”*



Governor LePage visits the African SuperMarket in Portland.

## BUSINESS ANSWERS and RED TAPE HOTLINE

Over the past  
**6 months**  
more than  
**1,900**  
inquiries

have been fielded  
from business owners  
and entrepreneurs

**Call (207)  
624-7486**

Scan code to go  
online to the Maine  
Dept. of Economic  
and Community  
Development





# JOBS

MAINE JOB BANK:

**JOBS  
POSTED**

May 2012 to Sept. 2013

**NEARLY  
DOUBLED**

from about

**3,700**

to more than

**7,000**

- **The Department of Labor will drop the 2014 Unemployment Insurance Tax rates to the lowest since 2009, saving job creators \$30 million in 2014, while keeping the unemployment trust fund stable and solvent.**
- **Published an updated online directory of Maine Farmer's Markets to support and promote the growth of Farmer's Markets in 2013.**
- **Developed the Maine Economic Development Guide, an annual magazine that will feature the positive economic news occurring in Maine.**
- **Since January 2011, approved incentives to support 90 new businesses, providing an anticipated 1,828 jobs and over \$391 million in private investment.**
- **Standardized the definition of an "independent contractor," ending years of confusion as to its interpretation.**
- **Increased competition in Maine's health insurance market by allowing the purchase of health insurance across state lines.**



*Governor LePage sent packages of lobster to the 49 other Governors across the U.S.*

- **Unveiled the Coastal Public Access Guide, the first publication to promote access to over 700 recreational sites and activities in Maine.**
- **Eliminated a tax charged on meals at retirement facilities.**
- **Promoted jobs in Maine's beachside hospitality industry, resulting in a \$2 million expansion in Old Orchard Beach.**
- **Introduced legislation to ease the transfer of military training to the civilian workforce, helping our veterans get jobs.**
- **The Department of Labor has organized or supported two dozen Job Fairs across the state in 2013, including several fairs that have a special focus on hiring veterans, to connect job creators and job seekers.**

Governor LePage introduced and signed legislation to create and fund the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative, which focuses on marketing Maine lobster and strengthening Maine's coastal economy.

# tax reform

- **Provided tax relief** for roughly two-thirds of all Maine's taxpayers.
- **Reduced the top income tax rate** from 8.5 percent to 7.95 percent.
- Passed an **income tax exemption** for active duty military pay earned outside of Maine.
- Conformed personal exemptions and deductions to the federal standard, **eliminating the marriage penalty and the alternative minimum tax.**
- Expanded the sales and use tax exemption to all aircraft repair and replacement parts.
- **Increased the death tax exemption** from \$1 million to \$2 million saving Maine farms and small businesses during transitions.
- **Reformed the income tax deduction for individuals receiving pensions**, saving Maine taxpayers \$20 million annually.
- **Expanded the sales tax exemption** on equipment used for commercial agriculture, commercial wood harvesting and the commercial production of greenhouse and nursery products, strengthening our natural resource industries.

**0%**  
**INCOME**  
**TAX RATE**  
for  
**70,000**  
low income  
**MAINE**  
**FAMILIES**



*"Folks, someone has to hold the line. Someone has to speak for the Maine taxpayer. Someone has to prevent us from heaping burden after burden on our children and our grandchildren."*

*This isn't just about this year's budget, or even the next budget cycle.  
This is about the next generation."*



Governor LePage tours True Textiles in Guilford.



Governor LePage speaks at Don't Over Tax ME Rally.

# reducing red tape

- **Changed the culture of state government** from being an adversary to the private sector to being a partner with the private sector.
- Introduced and **passed LD 1 to streamline the regulatory process for Maine's job creators.**
- Passed and signed legislation to **simplify Maine's credit reporting statutes.**
- Worked with the manufactured housing industry to **ease regulations surrounding the sale of homes.**
- **Launched an online licensing process** for electricians, real estate professionals, physical therapists and radiologic technologies.
- Signed legislation to **reduce the regulatory burden on charitable organizations.**
- **Rolled out the new definition of independent contractors**, providing a more fair and competitive playing field for businesses while streamlining compliance.
- Reduced the burden on farmers with **streamlined regulations in the pesticide notification program.**
- **DEP improved shoreland zoning regulations** to provide for greater clarity for municipalities to allow for walkways and decks over rivers when no harm to the environment is involved.
- **Passed legislation that extends online burn permits** to the entire state. Mainers will still be able to obtain paper permits from their local fire department at no cost.
- **Fertilizer testing results turn-around time to growers was reduced by over 200%** in 2013 compared to 2011 and 2012.
- **Eliminated burdensome and outdated regulations** that prohibited the storage of lobster traps on docks.
- **Expedited building permits** were developed and implemented through the Land Use Planning Commission.



- **The Workers' Compensation Act was restructured** and amended to introduce simplicity and certainty into the system.
- **The Workers' Compensation Board revised all of its forms** to make them more user friendly and **rewrote its rules to introduce fairness in claims processing.**
- The abuse and auditing units of the **The Workers' Compensation Board refocused their efforts from assessing penalties to education for the business and insurance communities.**



# reducing red tape

- **Increased efficiency for permitting harvesting activities**, land management roads and gravel pits less than 5 acres in the unorganized and de-organized areas of the state.
- Signed legislation to allow the Fire Marshal's Office to provide a **quicker permitting process for the installation of handicap-access structures**.
- **Reduced red tape in Maine's blossoming agritourism industry**.
- **Reduced red tape in Maine's maple products industry** by exempting sugarhouses from the 1,000-foot setback requirement.
- Maine **farmers no longer have to submit burdensome reports** every year to the Maine Potato Board.
- Signed legislation which removed red tape and **allowed a \$2 million expansion for a family-owned group of hotels** known as Lafayette Hotels.
- Supported local agriculture by **reducing regulations and increasing flexibility for poultry production** on small farms while ensuring food safety for Mainers.
- **Modernized rules for recreational lodging facilities** (sporting camps, campgrounds, group/youth camps, rental cabins, campsites) to ensure the industry has greater flexibility to compete in the marketplace.
- The Shellfish Dealer Inspection Program reduced significant time and **eliminated dozens of pages of paperwork for shellfish dealers** by requiring a simple, one-page form.
- **Streamlined regulations for processing of tidal power applications**.
- **Saved crop farmers \$200 to \$2,000 or more per year** by eliminating the requirement that they report their irrigation water use under the Water Reporting Law.
- Supported legislation **allowing processors to process oversized lobsters** legally imported from Canada.
- The Department of Environmental Protection **re-launched the assistance hotline and established an assistance unit** to help job creators navigate the permitting process.

Gov. LePage held

**25  
RED TAPE  
WORKSHOPS**

across the state  
and heard from

**1,000**

**JOB CREATORS**  
about how red  
tape impacts  
their business



*"Job creators know that my administration wants to help, and my door is always open. You want to create a job; I want to be there to help."*





# welfare reform

## 5-YEAR LIMIT

on some welfare  
benefits, resulting in a

# 41%

## REDUCTION

in welfare cases.

*(Exceptions allowed for the  
most needy, such as the  
elderly and disabled.)*

- **Defeated a massive welfare expansion** effort that would have resulted in 70,000 new individuals, many of whom are able-bodied, young adults, being added to Maine's welfare rolls.
- **Removed Maine's status as a "Sanctuary State"** ensuring that Maine's limited welfare resources are reserved for Maine people.
- **Protected benefits for the truly needy by allowing drug testing** for welfare recipients convicted of a drug related felony.
- **Assisted 778 individuals with disabilities** to find employment success by working with the Department of Labor, resulting in \$13,808,875 total annual wages from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012.
- **Removed the right for certain legal non-citizens to receive welfare benefits** on day one to ensure Maine's limited resources are spent on Mainers.
- **Strengthened reporting laws for the better protection of children** who are suspected to be victims of child abuse.
- **Supported welfare reforms to TANF and ASPIRE** to help recipients find long term employment and become self-sufficient.



# welfare reform

- **Increased funding for individuals with developmental disabilities** who were on a waiting list for services.
- **Increased funding to child welfare services** by \$4.2 million annually.
- **Implemented Homeward Bound**, a program that helps disabled and elderly adults move from institutional to community settings.
- **Imposed stricter sanctions** on people who violate welfare rules.
- **Worked to ensure federal cuts to LIHEAP did not endanger low-income and senior citizens** during the cold winter months.
- **Implemented Unemployment Insurance reform** to make it easier to prosecute employers and individuals who cheat the system and commit unemployment fraud, thereby protecting benefits for those who truly need them.
- **Proposed significant welfare reforms** to bring Maine closer to the national average in terms of welfare.

A new public  
**REPORTING  
SYSTEM**  
has resulted in  
**71%**  
of the  
**WELFARE  
FRAUD  
referrals**  
that DHHS is  
investigating

# financial stability

- Proposed a two-year **budget that focuses on making Maine's economy more competitive** while protecting vital safety nets.
- **Eliminated \$1.7 billion**, 45% of the existing shortfall in Maine's pension system while protecting retirees' future benefits using common sense reforms.
- **Solved the \$1.3 billion operating budget shortfall** with a biennial budget plan that prioritized spending.
- **Decreased the size of state government** by eliminating vacant positions and instituting a hiring freeze.
- Enacted changes in the health insurance benefits for state employees, **reducing the plan expenses by \$31.4 million** in fiscal year 2012.
- **Balanced a budget without using gimmicks** such as furlough days and "double dipping."
- **Avoided thoughtless across-the-board cuts** and instead took the time to prioritize Maine's spending.
- **Directed all state agencies to institute a "zero-based budgeting process"** to ensure every tax dollar is spent efficiently and effectively.
- **Created the Office of Policy and Management** to do internal government reviews to ensure efficient use of our tax dollars.
- Supported establishing a **pay-back process for the \$4 million owed to Maine municipalities** for cleaning-up old landfills. The first pay-back checks have already been issued to the municipalities.

# education

Since January 2011, proposed

**80**  
**MILLION**  
**DOLLARS**  
to  
**INCREASE**  
**FUNDING**  
for  
**LOCAL**  
**SCHOOLS**

- **Developed a multiyear strategic plan** for education that puts the student first.
- Supported Maine families in deciding what is in the best interest of their children by **approving dozens of superintendent transfer agreements**.
- **Developed Maine's first statewide school accountability system** (A-F school grades) to ensure transparency in school performance for families and students.
- **Established a scholarship fund** for the descendants of Malaga Island.
- **Supported a red-tape review of the laws and rules of the Department of Education** to review unfunded mandates and unnecessary, redundant or overly burdensome laws.
- **Shifted some teacher retirement cost responsibility from the state to local schools** where salary decisions are made to ensure equity.
- **Introduced legislation to expand the use of the ASVAB test**, which would allow Maine students to determine their natural abilities and which careers suit these abilities.
- **Held a Governor's Education Conference**, bringing together over 200 attendees to hear from policy leaders from around the country.
- **Passed legislation that will decrease the cost of health insurance** for school districts, allowing more money to be spent in the classroom.



Governor LePage congratulates semi-finalists for 2014 Maine Teacher of the Year at the State House

*"I am passionate about education. This passion is not an attack on public schools. I speak passionately because education is what saved my life, and I cannot accept any child not being given the same opportunity I had."*



# education

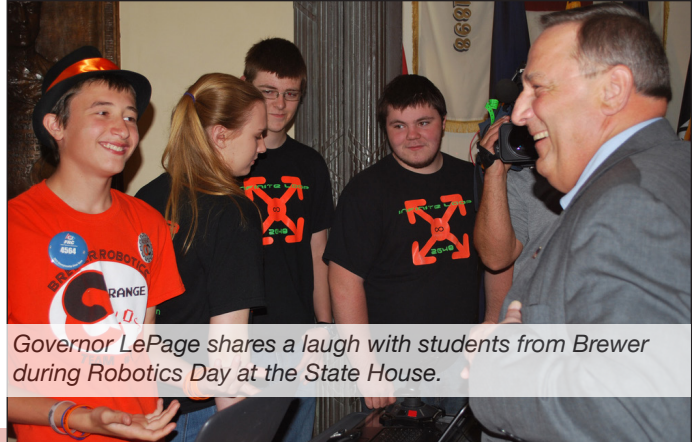
- **Advocated for uniformed military recruiters to have equal access** to meet with Maine students — the same access that post-secondary and career recruiters have.
- **Introduced and passed comprehensive legislation addressing educator effectiveness**, making sure Maine's educators are evaluated regularly, given the training and support they need to improve, and are held accountable for student achievement and growth.
- **Supported expansion of the Bridge Year program with \$500,000** in targeted funding to help high school students earn college credits and make post-secondary education more affordable for Maine families.
- **Leveled the playing field for Maine's rural school districts** by passing legislation to make needed adjustments to the state's school funding formula.
- **Promoted STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)** education to better prepare our students for the jobs of the future.
- **Passed legislation allowing school districts to develop innovative new approaches** for improving teaching and learning.
- **Enacted a series of reforms to improve Career and Technical Education in Maine**, bringing it back to the forefront of education.
- **Created a new incentive fund to support regionalization and innovation** among Maine's school districts.
- **Won bipartisan support for legislation to ensure that students demonstrate proficiency** in order to attain a high school diploma.

Passed legislation that allows

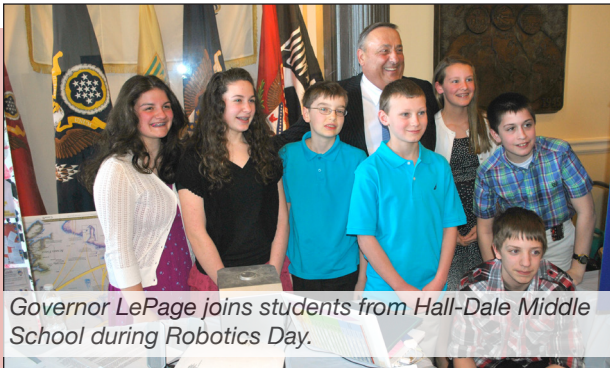
**CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
in Maine for the **FIRST TIME**

Hundreds of **FAMILIES**  
now have

**OPTIONS**  
for their **CHILDREN**



Governor LePage shares a laugh with students from Brewer during Robotics Day at the State House.



Governor LePage joins students from Hall-Dale Middle School during Robotics Day.

*"School choice should not be just for the wealthy elite. All Maine students deserve an equal chance of success whether they live in Cape Elizabeth or Fort Kent. This is how we break the cycle of generational poverty for Maine's children."*



# transportation

Added an additional

# \$104 MILLION

without borrowing  
in 2012-13 to improve

# ROADS and BRIDGES

- Added \$104 million, without borrowing, in 2012-13 to improve roads and bridges.
- During the first half of 2013, MaineDOT delivered nearly \$200 million in capital projects for bidding by private sector companies, achieving 95% on-time delivery.
- Fully funded a program to service and repair 600 miles of lower priority state roads.
- Increased the number of miles of highway reconstruction and rehabilitation by 20%, while lowering average unit costs by 5%.
- Reduced the purchase of heavy equipment by an estimated \$8 million to ensure taxpayers' money is being used wisely.
- Reduced the estimated cost of the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge replacement between Kittery and Portsmouth by about \$12 million using innovative contracting.



- Worked to improve the reliability and cost effectiveness for Maine manufacturers to move products overseas through the new container service in the Port of Portland, operated by Eimskip, the Icelandic steamship company.
- Focused efforts on the Maine Northern Railroad start-up, which stabilizes Maine's business climate for job creators (22 shippers and 2,000 related jobs).

- Decreased the MaineDOT overhead rates on parts and supplies from about 30% to a projected 15% by privatizing and streamlining payments to vendors.



- Consolidated state fleet and mechanical services into one, cost-effective facility, generating a projected \$1.5 million in annual operational savings.
- Eliminated unnecessary and duplicative aviation permits.
- Saved money in personnel costs, allowing an extra \$9.4 million to be spent on improving Maine's infrastructure and building the economy.

# public safety

- Secured grant funding to provide the Evidence Response Team of the state police with better equipment to process crime scenes.
- Provided more opportunities for those interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement through a 40-hour online class for students through the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.
- Signed an Executive Order to study the effectiveness of Protection from Abuse Orders and suggest improvements.
- Strengthened the penalties for texting while driving.
- Introduced and passed legislation to impose harsher penalties and restrictions on the drugs known as “bath salts,” aiming to make Maine safer.
- Signed legislation to reduce the cost and burden of unused pharmaceuticals to reduce prescription drug abuse.
- Maine State Police deployed troopers to New York and New Jersey to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.
- Signed legislation to allow minors who volunteer in career-oriented law enforcement programs to gain real world experience performing traffic control duties at civic events, encouraging young people towards a career in law enforcement.
- Kicked off a statewide campaign to End Domestic Violence in Maine, including introduction and passage of important victim’s related legislation.
- 70% increase in staffing at State Police Computer Crimes Unit has increased enforcement and reduced backlog.



## MORE STATE POLICE

are on the roads  
ensuring the  
**SAFETY**  
of Mainers  
thanks to Governor  
**LEPAGE'S BUDGET**



## REDUCED BACKLOG

of the  
**DNA  
UNIT**

by  
**66%**

# transparency

## Launched **OPEN CHECK BOOK** **.MAINE.GOV**

to show Mainers  
how their hard-  
earned tax  
dollars are  
spent.

Scan code to go to  
OpenCheckBook  
.Maine.gov



- **Maine recognized for having one of the “Top 10 Most Improved Transparency Websites** from 2012 to 2013” by a U.S. Public Interest Reporting Group.
- **Reformed the liquor distribution contract** to ensure the best deal for taxpayers.
- **Established “Capitol for a Day”** in each of the 16 counties, allowing citizens to attend public town halls to ask questions of the Governor and his cabinet.
- **DHHS responded to 5,492 constituent concerns** from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 and resolved 99.97% of these cases.
- **Negotiated seven contracts with four state unions** that included reductions of unnecessary costs to Maine taxpayers and cost of living adjustments for state employees for the first time since 2009.
- **Held constituent hours on Saturdays**, allowing citizens to meet directly with the Governor.
- **Formed a taskforce to investigate and bring welfare fraud to the forefront.**
- **Restructured the Department of Health and Human Services to streamline administration** and allow the department to focus more on frontline services.
- **Achieved \$30 million in personnel savings** at the Department of Health and Human Services.
- **Created a Governor’s Office website with over 2,000 active users** to allow citizens to comment on their ideas to save money in state government.
- **Hired eight new investigators in the Fraud Investigation and Recovery Unit** in DHHS and improved the public’s ability to report fraud and abuse through a new web form and reporting hotline. DHHS is now investigating 1,100 fraud cases.

## MAINE OPEN CHECKBOOK

Online Access to Government Spending

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### Welcome

Welcome to Maine Open Checkbook, an initiative of Governor Paul R. LePage, to provide public access to state government finances. You pay for your government, and you deserve to know how it spends your money. As part of the LePage Administration's promise to expand public access to information, here you will find up-to-date information on state payroll and vendor payments.

[More About Maine Open Checkbook »](#)



GOVERNOR PAUL R. LEPAGE

### Get Started

Level

Entity

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Period

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# accountability

- Since 2010, the **number of welfare fraud indictments and complaints filed has doubled**, as has the number of pleas and convictions.
- Introduced and **signed legislation to increase transparency by improving financial disclosure requirement** of legislators and certain executive branch employees.
- **Implemented cost savings initiatives to wipe out a \$1 million deficit** in the Fire Marshal's Office which resulted in a positive balance of over \$1.5 million.
- The Governor's **new appointments to the Maine State Housing Authority identified wasteful spending** and brought accountability back to the organization.
- For the first time, **Mainers now have access to price information for heating fuels year round**, not just during the heating season, allowing them to make informed decisions about their heating options.
- Under the Governor's administration, **new leadership was brought to the Maine Turnpike Authority** after misuse of taxpayer money was discovered, resulting in the conviction and incarceration of the former Executive Director.
- **Worked with the Department of Labor to pass Employment First legislation** to help people with serious mental illness return to the workforce.
- **Implemented the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness program** to meet the needs of individuals with substance abuse or serious mental health issues who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.
- Introduced and **signed legislation that requires the Maine Public Utilities Commission and the Office of the Public Advocate to post the annual costs of state policies that affect the price of electricity** on their websites, increasing transparency for the Maine ratepayer.
- The **Department of Corrections re-negotiated the prisoner medical contract** to bring costs back in line with the budget and national guidelines.
- **Signed legislation introducing competition for health insurance in Maine's school districts** (potentially saving millions of dollars).
- **Introduced legislation to bring more oversight and accountability to Maine's quasi-state agencies.**
- **Presented legislation to bring more oversight to the Efficiency Maine Trust**, requiring them to undergo a zero-based budgeting process and to have their budget approved by Maine's lawmakers.



*"Unlike Washington, D.C., Maine does not have the luxury of printing money or increasing any sort of debt ceiling. We must balance a budget, and we must pay our bills."*



# “can do” attitude



Family businesses such as Coastal Maine General Contracting in East Machias are “can do” companies.



Governor LePage tours Backyard Farms in Madison.



Governor LePage presents the Governor's Award for Business Excellence to LaPointe Lumber Company.

- The Governor is **working to change the culture of state agencies from “NO” to “CAN DO.”**
- Worked with cabinet members and lawmakers and **passed reforms to improve the business climate in Maine.**
- **Signed a bill to make it easier for homeowners to receive deliveries of heating fuel during the spring road posting time.**
- **Instituted an on-line license renewal form through the Department of Marine Resources, easing the burden on license holders.**
- **Reviewed all the forms used by the Workers’ Compensation Board to ensure they are user friendly, precise and legally accurate.**
- **Provided direct business assistance to over 50 farm enterprises through the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.**
- **Issued 114 licenses through the Bureau of Air Quality, reducing the backlog by 96%. 10 facilities were issued licenses that allow the use of natural gas.**
- **Reduced the time it takes to process an independent contractor predetermination application through the Workers’ Compensation Board to 5-6 days, despite an increase in the number of applicants.**
- **American jobs were brought back to Maine from overseas, including Carbonite in Lewiston.**
- **Reduced red tape and streamlined regulations, which aided in the restarting of Great Northern Paper in Millinocket.**
- **Returning injured workers to gainful employment is a new focus for the Workers’ Compensation Board. Applications for vocational rehabilitation are up over 200%, due to legislative changes supported by Governor LePage.**
- **Created new online unemployment system reporting tools for employers that improves the system’s response time and will decrease fraud while saving businesses time, paperwork and mailing costs.**

# domestic violence

- Signed an **Executive Order** which creates a taskforce to develop electronic assistance to provide safety for domestic violence victims.
- Opened a new retail store on Route 302 in Windham for **Prison Industries** with 25% of sales going toward victims' restitution if any is owed.
- The crime of **sexual assault** was added to the **Maine Code of Military Justice**.
- Signed legislation to ensure that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking are notified when their abuser is released from jail.
- Signed legislation to add sex trafficking as a crime under Maine law.
- Introduced and passed legislation that prevents judges from waiving the penalty that abusers pay into the **Victims' Compensation Fund**, a fund that provides financial reimbursement for the losses suffered by victims of violent crime and their families.
- Worked with the Department of Labor to produce educational tools for private companies when dealing with domestic violence.

*"If it is to be, it is up to me."*

*If we are to end domestic violence, we must first understand what it is and then stand up and speak up against it.*

*Together we will make domestic violence socially unacceptable.*



*Paul R. LePage*  
Paul R. LePage, Governor

Statewide Helpline: 1-866-834-HELP (4357)



Governor LePage attends a Domestic Violence Awareness event.

- Reduced the turnaround time for hearing **Gross Sexual Assault** cases from 18 months to 4 months.
- Championed legislation that amends the **Maine bail code** in order to protect the victims of domestic violence, ensuring a judge must determine the bail for felony domestic violence offenses and violations of a protection from abuse order.
- Supported legislation that deals with the risk assessments involved with abusers.
- Signed an **Executive Order** directing domestic violence training for state employees to be developed.

# environment

- **The Governor believes a balance can be achieved between protecting our environment and a prosperous economy.** The answer should never be “either/or” – it should always be both.
- In the Governor’s proposed budget, **funding for Maine’s Natural Resource Agencies was protected**, ensuring continued environmental protection.
- Under the Governor’s leadership, **the Department of Environmental Protection issued its largest enforcement penalty in 20 years** and the second-largest penalty of \$900,000 against Chevron for a major oil spill.
- **Relaunched the annual Governor’s Awards for Environmental Excellence**, to recognize projects and programs that have resulted in environmental protection as well as economic benefits that include infrastructure investments and jobs.
- **Legislation was passed to allow for a continuation of 2011 fishing levels of elvers**, which dramatically increased fines and penalties for unlicensed and illegal fishing.
- **Signed legislation to allow the clean-up of contaminated and unsafe properties in working waterfront areas** and put them to productive use. This will enhance and support Maine’s working waterfront which is critical to our economy.
- **Assisted farmers in designing a two-year agricultural curriculum** that will start a degree at KVCC, teaching the economics of good land stewardship.
- Fostered collaboration between the Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to **promote non-regulatory conservation of important resources.**



Governor LePage toured the salmon hatchery in East Machias.

- **Signed legislation allowing the Maine Department of Marine Resources to create state water marine fisheries management plans** to: establish long-term goals and visions for Maine’s fisheries; ensure their viability; and provide for rebuilding, access and new entrants.
- **Reformed LURC into the Land Use Planning Commission**, balancing economic development with natural resource development.
- **Supported funding for the Crescent Beach State Park lease** with Sprague Corporation, avoiding park closure and significant taxpayer subsidies.



# environment

- Worked through the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to secure a **\$400,000 agreement with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Services which will open the door to \$2 million in funding** to assist family forest owners in the implementation of good stewardship practices.
- **Made it easier to dispose of unused pharmaceuticals**, ensuring our public water supplies and aquifers are not damaged.
- **Demonstrated healthier forest-harvesting practices** by increasing sustainable timber harvests on public lands.
- **The Department of Marine Resources is leading New England in developing new, fishermen-supported measures** for risk-reduction to protect whales.
- **Presented Maine's Game Plan for Deer**, showing a commitment to rebuilding Maine's white-tailed deer population, which generated more than \$200 million within rural Maine in the late 1990's.
- **Created the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry** to focus on the protection and use of our world-class natural resources.
- **Established a Predator Control and Deer Habitat Fund** to assist in funding predator control and enhancing the deer habitat.
- **DEP's rail response coordination team actively addressed the transport of oil** by rail, aggressively undertaking response preparations such as identifying sensitive receptors, locations to stage equipment and access points in remote areas.
- **Increased protection for Maine landowners** who have been victimized by illegal timber harvesting by repeat offenders.
- **Enhanced the penalties related to the black market** on various animal parts including bear, moose and deer.
- **Implemented rules to increase efficiencies for environmental facility inspections.**

Since 2011 DEP completed the cleanup of over

**332  
OIL  
SPILL  
SITES**

putting formerly contaminated sites back into

**PRODUCTIVE  
USE**



Governor LePage with winners of the Clean Water Week poster contest

# preventing

## **VETOED numerous bills** that would have saddled the executive branch with **UNFUNDED STUDIES**

- Defeated legislation that gave taxpayer-funded government subsidies, specifically and only for solar panels, which would have resulted in increased fees on ALL Mainers' electricity bills.
- Defeated legislation that would have resulted in increased costs for general liability and auto liability insurance.
- Defeated legislation that would have increased costs on Maine businesses when applying for contracts in other states.
- Prevented the repeal of income and estate tax reductions that will keep \$225 million a year in the hands of Maine taxpayers.
- Defeated legislation that undermined Maine's Tree Growth Tax Law.
- Defeated legislation that would have raised the minimum wage, adding significant cost to businesses, and reduced job opportunities.
- Opposed legislation to change the newly passed mining bill that could provide enormous economic activity in Northern Maine.
- Vetoed numerous bills that would have saddled Maine's executive branch with unfunded studies.
- Opposed a ban of the sale or use of sealants on driveways and parking lots.
- Opposed a requirement that would force Maine people to pay a fee when using plastic bags.



# bad legislation

- Defeated legislation that would have allowed consumers to be charged for the surcharge that a company pays when a customer uses a debit or credit card.
- Defeated legislation that would have increased red tape in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy code.
- Defeated legislation that would have repealed market-based changes enacted through comprehensive health insurance coverage in the 125th Legislature.
- Defeated multiple attempts to undo the Maine Charter School law, infringing on the educational opportunities for Maine families and students.
- Defeated legislation that would have increased the fees charged by the Registries of Deeds, taking more money out of the pockets of Mainers.
- Defeated legislation that would have used taxpayer dollars to fund post-election political parties.
- Defeated 2 measures that would have established tolls on Maine roads, taking more money out of the pockets of hardworking Mainers.
- Defeated a bill that would have stripped parental rights and banned teen tanning.
- Defeated legislation that would have significantly driven up the cost of workers' compensation to Maine businesses, and would have introduced unnecessary litigation.
- Defeated numerous attempts to weaken the Second Amendment, which would have resulted in penalizing law-abiding citizens.

**DEFEATED**  
attempts to  
**WEAKEN**  
the  
**SECOND**  
**AMENDMENT**  
which would have  
penalized  
**LAW-ABIDING**  
**CITIZENS**



Governor LePage hears concerns about housing from the Sudanese community.



Gov. LePage discusses business regulations with Jimmy Simones of Simones Hot Dog in Lewiston.



Governor LePage visits with the owners of Berry's General Store in West Forks.



# veterans

## Thank YOU for Your SERVICE

- Passed legislation to provide a waiver for the fees charged for obtaining a driver's license and non-driver identification cards for current and recently discharged members of the Armed Forces.
- Governor LePage and First Lady LePage spearheaded legislation to offer Gold Star License Plates to the families of our fallen heroes.
- Corrected the criteria for postsecondary tuition waivers for children of veterans.
- First Lady Ann LePage helped launch the Portland Veterans Network, a program through the Portland Chamber helping our returning troops reintegrate into the Greater Portland community.



Governor LePage welcomes troops home.

- Amended the laws about awarding a high school diploma to veterans.
- First Lady Ann LePage has hosted ice cream socials at the Blaine House, providing school supplies to Maine's military children.
- Governor and First Lady LePage were honorary co-chairs for the Military Child Education Coalition that was launched in Maine.
- First Lady Ann LePage has traveled from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery in the Wreaths Across America convoy to honor our veterans, those currently serving and our fallen heroes.



Governor LePage and First Lady Ann LePage prepare to plant flags on veterans' graves on Memorial Day.

- The administration participated in a job fair to attract Maine's veterans to state service.
- Signed a bill to provide money to assist veterans' organizations in providing services at VA Togus, provide funding for the DAV transportation program and to assist homeless veterans.
- First Lady Ann LePage has worked to bring attention to The National Veterans Family Center in Maine, a retreat for severely wounded veterans.

# veterans

- Advocated for military recruiters to have equal access to meet with Maine students.
- Collaboration between DHHS, the Maine National Guard and other groups resulted in connections for veterans with substance abuse concerns.
- Refocused the Jobs for State Veterans grant to focus on serving more Veterans with disabilities.
- Signed legislation to ensure veterans and military spouses seeking employment in professions that require Maine licensing are given credit toward licensing requirements from military training, education and experience.
- Increased the opportunity for disabled veterans to hunt, fish and trap including free trapping licenses and reciprocity with other states.

*"We have the second-largest number of veterans per capita in the nation. We owe our heartfelt gratitude to our troops who defend our freedom and who sacrifice time with their family, friends and communities to serve."*



Governor LePage at Maine Veterans Home



Governor LePage stands with Korean War veterans after signing Maine Korean War Veteran Recognition Day Proclamation.



The Governor and First Lady Ann LePage at Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery

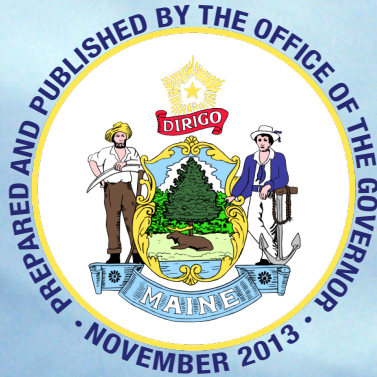


Governor LePage joins Maine Army National Guard at Gettysburg during the 150th anniversary of the battle.



# ACTIONS

*Speak Louder Than Words*



*"If it is to be, it is up to me."*

Connect with Gov. LePage



Scan to see  
Gov. LePage on

**You**Tube

[www.maine.gov/governor/lepage](http://www.maine.gov/governor/lepage)

