



# Maine AFL-CIO 2012 Working Families Legislative Scorecard

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## *Ranking Our Legislators' Commitment to Workers' Rights and An Economy that Works for All*

The 125th Maine Legislature was set amidst one of the worst economic periods since the 1930s. In this context, we asked the Legislature to:

- *reflect our core values of fairness, solidarity and economic justice*
- *do everything within its power to support workers and their families and*
- *take proactive measures to create a just economy.*

The Maine AFL-CIO is a statewide federation of more than 160 local labor unions in Maine. We represent some 30,000 active members in Maine and thousands of additional retirees and family members. Our members work in paper mills, shipyards, hospitals, construction sites, utilities, delivering public services, and in many other industries across the state. We represent these workers and their families at the Legislature and engage them in legislative, political and solidarity work.

This legislative scorecard seeks to capture the votes that were of the greatest importance to our members and all working people in the second session of the 125th Legislature. It provides information on those bills and lets you know how your legislators voted. Our Legislative Committee and Executive Board carefully reviewed all the bills that came before the State Legislature and selected which bills to work on and to score. We hope you find the scorecard useful and that you will use it to hold your state legislators accountable.



Union members like Auburn firefighter Michael Scott (IAFF 797) jammed the halls of the Maine State House in Augusta again this year, asking legislators to “walk a mile in our shoes.”



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### **INSIDE:**

*What's Going On in The Economy  
Workers' Legislative Bill Summary  
and Scorecard  
Contacting Your Legislators*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For working people, the 2012 Legislative Session was the “best of times and the worst of times.”

It was the worst of times because we saw continued attacks on workers’ rights and protections. This session saw harmful legislation designed to weaken unions, undermine workers’ compensation, eliminate the right to organize a union, weaken unemployment insurance and much more.

Yet, amidst the barrage of anti-worker bills, workers and their unions put forward a spirited response. We educated and reached more deeply into our membership; we developed hundreds of new leaders; we moved people into action and we strengthened our individual unions and our collective whole. You all know the work you did; you should be proud of it.

On the whole, we killed some of the worst, such as the Right to Work bills; limited the damage of many other bills and left everything on the field. Yet, a lot of damage was still done. The results of this Legislature will make life harder for a lot of people in our state - injured workers, the unemployed, the elderly, those struggling to find their feet in this economy, childcare providers and factory farm workers who want a voice at work, and lots more.

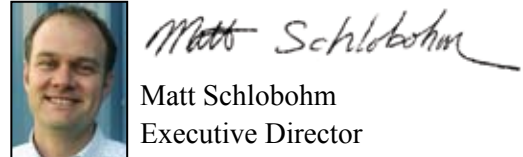
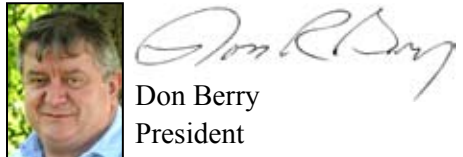
Scratch below the surface on the 125th Legislature and you’ll find a clear pattern: Governor LePage and his legislative allies consistently favored wealth over work. They put the 1%, the insurance industry and corporate interests ahead of working men and women.

There is no simple path forward. We have to educate and organize more deeply, put forward a bolder economic vision, hold legislators accountable, and unify a very divided working class. We have to do what we’re doing and do it better and try out some new things too.

This scorecard is meant to be one piece of that puzzle. It is designed for you to see exactly how your legislator voted on key labor issues. Please take a moment to look up your representatives. We are mailing this scorecard to roughly 40,000 members and retirees in the hopes that it will spur additional conversation, engagement and action.

There will be many opportunities to be involved in the coming months and year. We hope you will take part. As always, we appreciate your feedback and involvement. Contact us with any questions or to get more involved. Thanks for all that you do.

In solidarity,



**Maine AFL-CIO**  
 21 Gabriel Drive  
 Augusta, ME 04330



**Executive Board**

**President Don Berry (IBEW 567)**  
**Vice President Patrick Carleton (USW 9)**  
**Secretary-Treasurer Al Shepard (IBEW 567)**

Don Bilodeau (Western Maine Labor Council)  
 Chris Blair (IBEW 104)  
 Peggy Bogart (APWU 458)  
 Kelly Bonnell (USW 449)  
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 Ken Eaton (Teamsters 340)  
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 Barbara Finn (CWA 1400)  
 Ron Green (IAFF 772)  
 Bev Harris (UAW 3999)  
 David Lowell (Machinists Local 1821)  
 John Martell (IAFF 740)  
 Brian McGovern (NALC 92)  
 Jack McKay (Eastern Maine Labor Council)  
 Dave McKeone (Laborers 327)  
 John Napolitano (UA 716)  
 John Newton (AFGE 948)  
 Elizabeth O’Connor (AFSCME 2011)  
 Cynthia Phinney (IBEW 1837)  
 Wayne Poland (Southern Maine Labor Council)  
 Dave Projansky (AFSCME 1458)  
 David Schofield (Metal Trades Council)  
 Michael Scott (IAFF 797)  
 Patrick Shane (IBEW 2327)  
 Roger Stinson (IAM 2740)  
 Vanessa Sylvester (Maine State Nurses Association)  
 Brian Wade (USW 1069)  
 Jay Wadleigh (Machinists Local S-6)

Special thanks to Matt Beck, Tom Farkas and Mike Prokosch for their assistance producing the Maine AFL-CIO 2012 Working Families Legislative Scorecard.

**The Maine AFL-CIO would like to thank the generous sponsors of this Legislative Scorecard:**



# Summary of Maine AFL-CIO Scored Bills

## **LD 1913: Workers' Compensation**

*An Act To Review and Restructure the Workers' Compensation System*

*Originally sponsored by: Rep. Andre Cushing (R – Hampden)*

**Maine AFL-CIO Opposed**

Senate Roll Call # 484 — House Roll Call # 324

**Final Outcome:** Bill passed in amended form and signed by the Governor

Workers' Compensation is a lifeline designed to help protect injured workers from losing everything. During the legislative session, scores of injured workers shared their personal stories about terrible injuries at work, the difficulty of navigating the current Workers' Comp system and fighting with insurance companies. LD 1913 will make life even more difficult for severely injured workers.

This legislation drastically reduces the duration of disability benefits available to severely injured workers. It caps benefits for almost all injured workers at ten years, even if their injury results in permanent earnings loss or prevents them from returning to work. The bottom line: Almost all injured workers most deserving of long-term wage replacement protection will lose it under this bill. This is particularly galling given that Workers Comp premiums have dropped 56% since 1993 and more than 7% in 2011 alone.

LD 1913 followed a long, contentious path to enactment. Following the wishes of the insurance industry, the bill was amended dramatically for the worse in committee at the eleventh hour. The Senate ultimately made changes to slightly mitigate the damage, but this bill remains very harmful for seriously injured workers.

## **LD 1207: Collective Bargaining Rights**

*An Act To Amend the Labor Laws Relating to Certain Agricultural Employees*

*Sponsored by: Rep. Dale Crafts (R – Lisbon)*

**Maine AFL-CIO Opposed**

Senate Roll Call # 387 — House Roll Call # 231

**Final Outcome:** Bill passed in amended form and signed by the Governor

LD 1207 was carried over from last session, when it lacked the support to pass. This bill repeals the right to form a union for workers at large scale, industrial egg processing factories, including the former DeCoster Egg Farms. These workers do some of the dirtiest, most dangerous work in our state and with the passage of LD 1207 they no longer have the right to organize for better wages and working conditions. As originally proposed, LD 1207 would have also stripped overtime and minimum wage for these workers. The amended version repealed collective bargaining rights only. This bill was passed in both chambers along party lines and signed into law by the Governor.

## **Who are my Legislators?**

If you don't know who represents you, see pages 12 - 13 to find your legislative districts or go to [www.maineaflcio.org/findmyrep](http://www.maineaflcio.org/findmyrep).

**Feel free to contact the Maine AFL-CIO with questions or feedback:**  
Call 207-622-9675 or email: [info@maineaflcio.org](mailto:info@maineaflcio.org).

## **LD 1725: Unemployment Insurance**

*An Act To Strengthen the Unemployment Insurance Laws and Reduce Unemployment Fraud*

*Sponsored by: Sen. Chris Rector (R – Thomaston)*

**Maine AFL-CIO Opposed**

Senate Roll Call # 463 — House Roll Call # 326

**Final Outcome:** Bill passed in amended form and signed by the Governor

LD 1725 was another case of misplaced priorities. During the worst recession in 80 years, LD 1725 sought to weaken the unemployment insurance system and penalize laid-off workers.

The ultimate fight on this bill was on unemployment insurance and vacation pay – namely whether a worker who has earned vacation pay on the books when they are laid-off should have their unemployment delayed week for week. We don't think they should. Vacation pay is pay that workers earn before getting laid off. People have earned this and it should not delay their unemployment check.

The original version of LD 1725 delayed unemployment week for week for any earned vacation time on the books. The final version that passed penalizes a laid-off worker for weeks of earned vacation pay over four weeks. For example, a worker who has six weeks of earned vacation at the time of layoff would have to wait two weeks longer than other workers to collect unemployment insurance. The bill also forces laid-off workers into lower paying jobs faster.

Grassroots pressure from union members and allies limited the damage of this bill, held it up for weeks in the Senate and ultimately forced it to be amended.

## **LD 1894: Childcare Collective Bargaining Rights**

*An Act To Restore Departmental Management over Costs of State-paid Child Care*

*Sponsored by: Sen. Earle McCormick (R – West Gardiner)*

**Maine AFL-CIO Opposed**

Senate Roll Call # 448 — House Roll Call # 311

**Final Outcome:** Bill passed and signed by the Governor

A strong childcare system is essential to our children, working families and to Maine's economy. In 2008, home-based child care providers sought a stronger voice to enhance the quality of the childcare system. They succeeded in passing legislation granting them the right to organize and to collectively bargain with the state over issues of critical importance to childcare providers including payment procedures, reimbursement rates, training needs & standards and more. They formed an association, Kids First, and successfully bargained with the state.

LD 1894 repealed the collective bargaining rights of home-based childcare providers.

## **How did my Legislators vote?**

Find out the real score on pages 5 - 9.

# Summary of Maine AFL-CIO Scored Bills

## LD 849: Taxation

An Act to Provide Tax Relief for Maine's Citizens by Reducing Income Taxes

*Sponsored by: Sen. David Trahan (R – Waldoboro)*

**Maine AFL-CIO Opposed**

Senate Roll Call # 508 — House Roll Call # 364

**Final Outcome:** Bill passed in amended form and signed by the Governor

LD 849 has been referred to as another TABOR-like proposal - something Maine voters have rejected at the ballot three times in recent years. LD 849 ratchets down state revenues by implementing an auto-pilot system that reduces the top income tax rate to 4% over time, thus cutting the state's income tax revenues in half over time. This would mean a huge loss in funding to our schools, bridges, roads, and towns. These tax cuts are essentially unfunded, leaving future Legislatures to figure out how to pay for them. Many of the costs will have to be shifted to be paid for and will result in higher property taxes. The proposal overwhelmingly benefits the wealthiest 1% of Mainers. After initially failing in the House, an amended version of this bill was passed and signed by the Governor.

## LD 1833: Electrician Ratios

An Act To Encourage Enrollment in High School Electrical Education Programs

*Sponsored by: Rep. Andre Cushing (R – Hampden)*

**Maine AFL-CIO Opposed**

Senate Roll Call # 449 — House Roll Call # 289

**Final Outcome:** Bill passed in amended form and signed by the Governor

LD 1833 doubles the ratio of electricians helpers that may work under a journeyman or master electrician from one to two. The electrical industry is strictly regulated and the one to one ratio is common throughout our region for very good reason – electricity can be very dangerous when not properly installed or understood. This bill will undermine safety in the electrical industry. It will also drive down wages in the field.

## LD 1746: State Budget

An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Govt. and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operation of State Govt.

*Sponsored by: Sen. Richard Rosen (R – Bucksport)*

**Maine AFL-CIO Opposed**

Senate Roll Call # 508 — House Roll Call # 364

**Final Outcome:** Bill passed in amended form and signed by the Governor

The state budget for the coming year, June 2012 - June 2013, makes drastic cuts in services to Maine's working families, elderly, and children. Through cuts to Maine's Drugs for the Elderly and Medicare Savings Program, it will reduce access to medicine and medical care for more than 5,000 seniors and people with disabilities. It includes major cuts to Head Start early childhood education programs for children, and childcare subsidies affecting as many as 1,800 children whose parents are trying to work and care for them. The cuts also eliminate health care for 7,000 19 and 20-year-olds. The budget also eliminates MaineCare coverage for another 14,500 low income working parents.

## LD 225: Research & Development

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$20,000,000 To Fund Research and Development

*Sponsored by: Sen. Chris Rector (R – Thomaston)*

**Maine AFL-CIO Supported**

Senate Roll Call # 509 — House Roll Call # 368

**Final Outcome:** Bill passed initially; vetoed by the Governor. Veto overridden in Senate; veto sustained in House. Bill failed.

LD 225 would have invested \$20 million to create new high tech jobs in agriculture, forestry, boat-building, fisheries, precision manufacturing and others key sectors. The research and development bond was approved by an overwhelming bipartisan margin in the Maine Legislature only to have it vetoed by Governor LePage. This bond, which would have required approval from the voters, would have created jobs for Maine workers. LD 225 had support from business, labor, and environmental groups.

Ultimately, the Senate voted to override the Governor's veto and sustain the bill, but the House failed to override the Governor's veto and therefore the bond will not go before voters in November.

## LD 309: Public Sector "Right-to-Work" bill killed by grassroots worker effort

The biggest labor battle of the year is not reflected in the scored bills because it never came up for a vote. LD 309, sponsored by Rep. Tom Winsor (R – Norway), was a public sector Right-to-Work-for-Less bill. This bill was designed to weaken unions and undermine their ability to negotiate effectively. A companion private sector "Right to Work" bill, LD 788, was killed in June 2011.

LD 309 was so poorly written that it would have blown up public sector bargaining as we know it. Ultimately, the bill sought to make it illegal for state employees and their employer to negotiate provisions that all workers share the cost of collective bargaining and representation. This would allow workers to get all the benefits of representation without sharing in any of the costs.

This bill lingered for the entirety of the 125th Legislature (2011 & 2012). Private sector and public sector workers were unified in their opposition and put enormous pressure on legislators to oppose the bill – holding local meetings with legislators, making calls, signing postcards and coming to the State House. Every time the bill started to move, grassroots pressure stopped it in its tracks. Ultimately, LD 309 was killed without a vote as Democratic and some Republican legislators opposed the measure.

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			LD 1207	LD 1833	LD 1894	LD 1913	LD 1725	LD 849	LD 1746	LD 225	125th	125th
Dist.	Senator	Party	DeCoster Workers	Electri-cians	Childcare Workers	Workers' Comp.	Unem-ployment	Taxation	Budget	R & D Bond Veto	2012 SCORE	TOTAL 2011-12 SCORE
8	JUSTIN ALFOND of Cumberland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
6	PHILIP BARTLETT of Cumberland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
9	JOSEPH BRANNIGAN of Cumberland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
2	RONALD COLLINS of York	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
3	JONATHAN COURTNEY of York	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
16	MARGARET CRAVEN of Androscoggin	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
12	BILL DIAMOND of Cumberland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	76%
7	CYNTHIA DILL of Cumberland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
32	NICHI FARNHAM of Penobscot	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
10	STAN GERZOFKY of Cumberland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
19	SETH GOODALL of Sagadahoc	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
13	DAVID HASTINGS of Oxford	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
1	DAWN HILL of York	D	✓	x	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	75%	82%
5	BARRY HOBBS of York	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
35	TROY JACKSON of Aroostook	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	88%	94%
20	CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON of Lincoln	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
24	ROGER KATZ of Kennebec	R	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	25%	18%
28	BRIAN LANGLEY of Hancock	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	18%
25	THOMAS MARTIN of Kennebec	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
17	GARRETT MASON of Androscoggin	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
21	EARLE McCORMICK of Kennebec	R	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	25%	18%
14	JOHN PATRICK of Oxford	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
33	DEBRA PLOWMAN of Penobscot	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
29	KEVIN RAYE of Washington	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
22	CHRISTOPHER RECTOR of Knox	R	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	25%	24%
31	RICHARD ROSEN of Hancock	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	18%
18	THOMAS SAVIELLO of Franklin	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
30	ELIZABETH SCHNEIDER of Penobscot	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	88%
34	ROGER SHERMAN of Aroostook	R	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	25%	18%
15	LOIS SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
4	NANCY SULLIVAN of York	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	93%
23	MICHAEL THIBODEAU of Waldo	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
27	DOUGLAS THOMAS of Somerset	R	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	13%	12%
26	RODNEY WHITTEMORE of Somerset	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
11	RICHARD WOODBURY of Cumberland	U	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	50%	59%

✓ = pro-worker vote; x = anti-worker vote; A = unexcused absence; E = excused absence.

Legislators are listed alphabetically by last name.

			LD 1207	LD 1833	LD 1894	LD 1913	LD 1725	LD 849	LD 1746	LD 225	125th	125th
Dist.	Representative	Party	DeCoster Workers	Electri-cians	Childcare Workers	Workers' Comp.	Unem-ployment	Taxation	Budget	R & D Bond Veto	2012 SCORE	TOTAL 2011-12 SCORE
3	BERNARD AYOTTE of Caswell	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	12%
135	PAULETTE BEAUDOIN of Biddeford	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	88%
68	MICHAEL BEAULIEU of Auburn	R	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	✓	25%	18%
148	ROBERTA BEAVERS of South Berwick	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
76	HENRY BECK of Waterville	D	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%	94%
151	DEVIN BELIVEAU of Kittery	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
141	PAUL BENNETT of Kennebunk	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	A	0%	6%
67	SETH BERRY of Bowdoinham	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
70	BRUCE BICKFORD of Auburn	R	x	A	A	x	x	A	x	✓	13%	12%
90	RUSSELL BLACK of Wilton	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
56	ANNA BLODGETT of Augusta	D	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%	94%
142	ANDREA BOLAND of Sanford	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	75%	88%
69	BRIAN BOLDUC of Auburn	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	88%	94%
93	SHERYL BRIGGS of Mexico	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
110	MARK BRYANT of Windham	D	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%	88%
32	DAVID BURNS of Whiting	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
19	EMILY CAIN of Orono	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
72	MICHAEL CAREY of Lewiston	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
137	ALAN CASAVANT of Biddeford	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
101	RICHARD CEBRA of Naples	R	E	x	x	x	x	A	x	x	0%	6%
21	MICHAEL CELLI of Brewer	R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	✓	13%	12%
37	RALPH CHAPMAN of Brooksville	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
147	KATHLEEN CHASE of Wells	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	A	x	0%	6%
119	BENJAMIN CHIPMAN of Portland	U	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
10	HERBIE CLARK of Millinocket	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
6	TYLER CLARK of Easton	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
62	MICHAEL CLARKE of Bath	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
66	A. CORNELL du HOUX of Brunswick	D	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A	A	38%	71%
55	DAVID COTTA of China	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
104	DALE CRAFTS of Lisbon	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
28	DEAN CRAY of Palmyra	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
91	JARROD CROCKETT of Bethel	R	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x	13%	12%
86	PHILIP CURTIS of Madison	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
39	ANDRE CUSHING of Hampden	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
16	DENNIS DAMON of Bangor	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
26	PAUL DAVIS of Sangerville	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
14	JAMES DILL of Old Town	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%

✓ = pro-worker vote; x = anti-worker vote; A = unexcused absence; E = excused absence.

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			LD 1207	LD 1833	LD 1894	LD 1913	LD 1725	LD 849	LD 1746	LD 225	125th	125th
Dist.	Representative	Party	DeCoster Workers	Electri-cians	Childcare Workers	Workers' Comp.	Unem-ployment	Taxation	Budget	R & D Bond Veto	2012 SCORE	TOTAL 2011-12 SCORE
113	MARK DION of Portland	D	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	81%
50	DANA DOW of Waldoboro	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
126	TIMOTHY DRISCOLL of Westbrook	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
13	ROBERT DUCHESNE of Hudson	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	88%	94%
88	LARRY DUNPHY of Embden	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	0%
123	JANE EBERLE of South Portland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
4	PETER EDGECOMB of Caribou	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
105	ELEANOR ESPLING of New Gloucester	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
146	MARK EVES of North Berwick	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
29	STACEY FITTS of Pittsfield	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
8	JOYCE FITZPATRICK of Houlton	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
35	ELSPETH FLEMINGS of Bar Harbor	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
82	PATRICK FLOOD of Winthrop	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
53	LESLIE FOSSEL of Alna	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
58	KAREN FOSTER of Augusta	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
25	KENNETH FREDETTE of Newport	R	x	x	x	x	A	x	x	A	0%	6%
12	JEFFERY GIFFORD of Lincoln	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
87	PAUL GILBERT of Jay	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
41	JAMES GILLWAY of Searsport	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	A	0%	6%
15	ADAM GOODE of Bangor	D	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%	94%
109	ANNE GRAHAM of North Yarmouth	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
22	STACEY GUERIN of Glenburn	R	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	25%	18%
100	JAMES HAMPER of Oxford	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
59	STEPHEN HANLEY of Gardiner	D	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	50%	59%
116	DENISE HARLOW of Portland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
45	RYAN HARMON of Palermo	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
89	LANCE HARVELL of Farmington	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
117	ANNE HASKELL of Portland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
94	TERESA HAYES of Buckfield	D	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%	94%
43	ERIN HERBIG of Belfast	D	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
118	JON HINCK of Portland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
132	GEORGE HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	88%	94%
131	ROBERT HUNT of Buxton	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
107	MELISSA INNES of Yarmouth	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
20	DAVID JOHNSON of Eddington	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
27	PETER JOHNSON of Greenville	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
124	BRYAN KAENRATH of South Portland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%

✓ = pro-worker vote; x = anti-worker vote; A = unexcused absence; E = excused absence.  
Legislators are listed alphabetically by last name.

			LD 1207	LD 1833	LD 1894	LD 1913	LD 1725	LD 849	LD 1746	LD 225	125th	125th
Dist.	Representative	Party	DeCoster Workers	Electri-cians	Childcare Workers	Workers' Comp.	Unem-ployment	Taxation	Budget	R & D Bond Veto	2012 SCORE	TOTAL 2011-12 SCORE
65	PETER KENT of Woolwich	D	✓	x	A	A	A	A	✓	✓	38%	71%
83	DENNIS KESCHL of Belgrade	R	x	x	A	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
129	JANE KNAPP of Gorham	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	12%
81	GARY KNIGHT of Livermore Falls	R	x	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	25%	24%
48	CHUCK KRUGER of Thomaston	D	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%	94%
36	WALTER KUMIEGA of Deer Isle	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
71	MICHAEL LAJOIE of Lewiston	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
139	AARON LIBBY of Waterboro	R	x	x	x	x	x	A	A	A	0%	6%
9	RICKY LONG of Sherman	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
77	THOMAS LONGSTAFF of Waterville	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
115	STEPHEN LOVEJOY of Portland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
38	LOUIS LUCHINI of Ellsworth	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
61	BRUCE MacDONALD of Boothbay	D	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%	94%
31	JOYCE MAKER of Calais	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
34	RICHARD MALABY of Hancock	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
57	MAEGHAN MALONEY of Augusta	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
1	JOHN MARTIN of Eagle Lake	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	88%	88%
47	EDWARD MAZUREK of Rockland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	75%	88%
85	JEFF McCABE of Skowhegan	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
103	MICHAEL McCLELLAN of Raymond	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
30	HOWARD McFADDEN of Dennysville	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
51	JONATHAN MCKANE of Newcastle	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
121	K. MONAGHAN-DERRIG of Cape Eliz.	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
54	SUSAN MORISSETTE of Winslow	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
122	TERRY MORRISON of South Portland	D	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%	94%
149	BRADLEY MOULTON of York	R	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	38%	24%
144	JOAN NASS of Acton	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
112	MARY NELSON of Falmouth	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
80	MELVIN NEWENDYKE of Litchfield	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
78	ROBERT NUTTING of Oakland	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
44	ANDREW O'BRIEN of Lincolnville	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	75%	82%
145	BETH O'CONNOR of Berwick	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	0%
64	KIMBERLY OLSEN of Phippsburg	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
18	JAMES PARKER of Veazie	R	E	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
140	WAYNE PARRY of Arundel	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
125	ANN PEOPLES of Westbrook	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
92	MATTHEW PETERSON of Rumford	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
84	JOHN PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%

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			LD 1207	LD 1833	LD 1894	LD 1913	LD 1725	LD 849	LD 1746	LD 225	125th	125th
Dist.	Representative	Party	DeCoster Workers	Electri-cians	Childcare Workers	Workers' Comp.	Unem-ployment	Taxation	Budget	R & D Bond Veto	2012 SCORE	TOTAL 2011-12 SCORE
133	DONALD PILON of Saco	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	A	75%	88%
111	GARY PLUMMER of Windham	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
60	KERRI PRESCOTT of Topsham	R	x	x	A	x	x	x	x	x	0%	0%
63	CHARLES PRIEST of Brunswick	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	88%	82%
97	HELEN RANKIN of Hiram	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
23	DAVID RICHARDSON of Carmel	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	P	13%	24%
49	WESLEY RICHARDSON of Warren	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
42	PETER RIOUX of Winterport	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
136	MEGAN ROCHELO of Biddeford	D	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
40	KIMBERLY ROSEN of Bucksport	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
74	MARGARET ROTUNDO of Lewiston	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
120	DIANE RUSSELL of Portland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
130	LINDA SANBORN of Gorham	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
52	DEBORAH SANDERSON of Chelsea	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
99	RALPH SARTY of Denmark	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
102	MICHAEL SHAW of Standish	D	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	75%	82%
128	HEATHER SIROCKI of Scarborough	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	0%
17	SARA STEVENS of Bangor	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
108	M. STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
114	PETER STUCKEY of Portland	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	88%	94%
2	CHARLES THERIAULT of Madawaska	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
33	DIANNE TILTON of Harrington	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
96	JEFFREY TIMBERLAKE of Turner	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
79	SHARON TREAT of Hallowell	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
11	BETH TURNER of Burlington	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
143	JOHN TUTTLE of Sanford	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
134	LINDA VALENTINO of Saco	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
127	AMY VOLK of Scarborough	R	E	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	14%	7%
73	RICHARD WAGNER of Lewiston	D	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%	88%
24	RAYMOND WALLACE of Dexter	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	0%
98	PAUL WATERHOUSE of Bridgton	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
150	WINDOL WEAVER of York	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
106	DAVID WEBSTER of Freeport	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	88%	94%
46	JOAN WELSH of Rockport	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
7	ALEX WILLETTE of Mapleton	R	x	A	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
5	MICHAEL WILLETTE of Presque Isle	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	13%	12%
95	TOM WINSOR of Norway	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%
75	STEPHEN WOOD of Sabattus	R	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0%	6%

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# The Human Faces of These Bills

The bills scored in this Scorecard have very real impacts on people's lives, their livelihoods and their families. The human impact of legislation often gets lost in the policy debate. Below are some of the human faces and stories of anti-worker legislation from the 125th Legislature.

## Dean Harding – Workers' Compensation (LD 1913)

"I had worked at a local industrial plant for 21 years when I suffered a severe brain injury in a bad accident at work in 2010. Until I was hurt, I didn't realize how broken the system is.

"This is not a fair system whatsoever. Workers' Comp is a very difficult system for injured workers to navigate. The insurance companies make you jump through hoop after hoop and challenge almost every effort by injured workers to get the benefits we deserve.

"When you get hurt at work, you can't earn a paycheck. When people are out of work because they are hurt, they can't make their house and car payments, they are in danger of losing their home and everything they worked so hard for. This bill will hurt injured workers even more than they have already been hurt."



Dean Harding

## Melanie Collins – Repeal of Childcare Collective Bargaining Rights (LD 1894)

"I own a small childcare business, employing my sister and daughter caring daily for 5-10 infants and toddlers in my home while their parents work. I helped the childcare providers of Maine get unionized in 2008 in a landslide victory, and was the first and last chapter president. I say 'last chapter president' because LePage and friends just made it illegal for us to belong to a union.

"We as union members fought to protect childcare subsidies. Childcare subsidies help people get off welfare, by subsidizing childcare, so low-income parents can afford to go to work. The subsidy rates are set by the Legislature, and are always lower than minimum wage.

"Why do I need my union? I work 74 hours a week at my business, I make less than minimum wage, and I don't have enough time to watch what's happening in Augusta. My union, like most, watches out for us. Three years ago our union worked hard to pass a law that stopped companies from refusing to issue homeowners insurance to new childcare providers and from limiting existing businesses to 3 children. Because of the new law, I was able to grow my business from 3 to 10 kids and hire 2 employees.

"A union gave us a stronger voice to advocate for kids and for a better childcare system for all. Repealing our right to collectively negotiate with the State is just plain wrong – its bad for children, working families, childcare providers and our state as a whole."



Melanie Collins

## Deb Kendall – Unemployment Insurance (LD 1725)

"I worked at the Otis Mill in Jay for 25 years until 2009 when I was laid-off with over 200 other workers. We had spent years at Otis and we were laid off through no fault of our own, and many of us had earned vacation pay on the books. Those who did were punished by having our unemployment delayed just because they had unused vacation pay at the time of their layoff. They had earned that vacation pay just like any other wage, and it was completely unfair that their unemployment benefits were delayed.

"Getting laid-off is devastating. There is no faster way to eat away someone's pride, self-respect and hope. Your dream – the American dream – is gone. It only gets harder. Getting laid off in this economy is devastating. It is very difficult to find a new job. How do you fill your oil tank and keep food on the table? Many people who do find jobs are earning much less and do not get any benefits.

"It adds insult to injury to think that our elected officials would make it harder for people who have worked all their lives to access unemployment insurance when they finally need it."



Deb Kendall

## Steve Keaten – Changes to the State Retirement System (LD 1043)

"Many teachers and state employees like myself were forced to retire in order to keep health insurance, because the Legislature changed the age of eligibility. I was forced to leave my 28 years of employment with the state and take a 42% penalty on my retirement benefits in order to have my health insurance upon retirement.

"It's unfair that retired state workers and teachers are paying the price for the financial crisis that we didn't cause. The Legislature broke the promise we were made when we began our service to the state, and this will result in seniors struggling to make ends meet."



Steve Keaten

# Noteworthy Actions

*Roll call votes give one perspective on what happens in Augusta, but much more goes on behind the scenes, in committee votes and in lots of other ways that have a huge impact on the outcome. Here are some of the actions taken by legislators, not fully reflected in the scores, that impacted workers' rights and our economy.*

**Democratic and Republican legislators** opposed both so-called "Right to Work" bills, including LD 309 this session. The list is long and we thank all legislators who worked to kill these bills. We especially appreciate **Republican legislators** who spoke up in their caucus, lobbied their leadership and opposed these measures in committee. In particular, we recognize the efforts of Labor Committee chair, **Sen. Chris Rector (R – Thomaston)**, who ran the committee process on these bills with transparency and worked behind the scenes to do away with both measures and focus on real priorities.

**Rep. Jarrod Crockett (R – Bethel)** deserves special credit for being the sole Republican in the House to oppose the harmful Workers' Compensation Bill, LD 1913. In the days before the vote, numerous Republican Representatives indicated that they were opposed to the legislation, but eventually caved under enormous business and party pressure. Rep. Crockett held firm and did what was right.

**The Democratic members of the Labor Committee – Sen. Troy Jackson (Allagash); Rep. John Tuttle (Sanford); Rep. Paul Gilbert (Jay); Rep. Rob Hunt (Buxton); Rep. Erin Herbig (Belfast); Rep. Tim Driscoll (Westbrook)** – worked effectively to oppose the weakening of workers' compensation, LD 1913. They grilled supporters of the bill, spoke eloquently from the floor in opposition and did everything possible to defeat this bill.

**Rep. Brad Moulton (R – York)** broke ranks more than any other Republican legislator this session voting with workers on three different bills. He was the lone Republican to oppose the Supplemental State Budget (LD 1746). It is never easy to break ranks with your party and we appreciate Rep. Moulton's willingness to do so.

**Sen. Phil Bartlett (D – Cumberland)** gave tremendous floor speeches in opposition to weakening unemployment insurance (LD 1725), gutting workers' compensation (LD 1913) and repealing collective bargaining rights (LD 1207). He was also instrumental in trying to mitigate the damage of the workers' comp bill.

**Rep. Seth Berry (D-Bowdoinham)** deserves kudos for putting forward a responsible solution to the state's budget shortfall: raising taxes on the top 1%.

**Sen. Saviello (R – Franklin), Sen. McCormick (R – Kennebec), Sen. Sherman (R – Aroostook), and Sen. Katz (R – Kennebec)** were instrumental, along with **Republican Senate leadership**, in giving worker representatives an opportunity to present to the Republican Senate caucus on the Workers' Compensation Bill (LD 1913) in the last days of the session. While we strongly oppose the final measure that was passed, we appreciate the willingness of these legislators to listen and consider both sides of the legislation.

**Sen. Chris Rector (R – Thomaston)** withstood considerable pressure and continued his session-long opposition to repealing the collective bargaining rights of former Decoster Egg Farm workers via LD 1207. Sen. Rector was troubled by the company's deceitful presentation to the committee and by the numerous horror stories of worker and public health abuse.

**Sen. Nancy Sullivan (D – Biddeford) and Rep. Anne Graham (D – North Yarmouth)** played a key role in gaining support for an amendment in committee to include labor participation in a stakeholder group on contractor prequalification (LD 1821).

**Sen. Troy Jackson (D – Allagash) and Sen. John Patrick (D – Rumford)** deserve special recognition for being tireless and tenacious champions of the working class. Time and time again, they fought passionately to protect the rights of all Maine workers.

**Democratic Minority leader, Rep. Emily Cain (D-Orono) and Assistant**

**Democratic Leader, Sen. Justin Alford (D – Portland)** stepped up on the major labor issues this session doing considerable work within their caucuses and behind the scenes to support workers.

**Rep. Jeff McCabe (D – Skowhegan), chair; Rep. Adam Goode (D – Bangor), co-chair; Rep. Diane Russell (D – Portland), co-chair, Rep. Sharon Treat (D – Hallowell), Seth Berry (D – Bowdoinham), Mark Eves (D – North Berwick)** and all members of the **Working Families Caucus** did good work. The caucus was a strong voice for workers' rights and economic justice – pushing these issues in the Legislature and into the media.

**Democratic Leadership & Republican Leadership on the Legislative Council** voted 9 – 1 to kill a bill that would have made it illegal to pay your union dues through a paycheck deduction. There was considerable outcry in opposition to the bill. **Rep. Phil Curtis (R – Madison)** was the sole legislator to support the bill.

**Rep. Mary Nelson (D – Falmouth)** let down Maine workers as the only Democrat in the House to vote in favor of changes to the Workers' Compensation system that will harm the most severely injured workers (LD 1913). On the ultimate enactment vote, her vote was the margin of difference.

We were deeply disappointed that **Rep. Terry Hayes (D – Buckfield) and Rep. Steve Hanley (D – Gardiner)** voted to repeal the collective bargaining rights of childcare providers. They were the only two Democrats to do so. **Sen. Roger Katz (R – Kennebec)** deserves our thanks as the sole Republican to vote against repealing childcare collective bargaining rights.

We were very pleased when a bill to invest \$20 million to create new high tech jobs in Maine was passed with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. Governor LePage vetoed that bill. It is hard to understand the votes of the following legislators. They initially voted for the jobs bond, but then voted against the exact same bill – and killed it in the House – after Governor LePage vetoed it: **Sen. Lois Snowe-Mello (R-Androscoggin), Speaker of the House Robert Nutting (R-Oakland), Assistant Majority Leader Rep. Andre Cushing III (R-Hampden), Rep. David C. Burns (R-Whiting), Rep. Kathleen Chase (R-Wells), Rep. Jarrod Crockett (R-Bethel), Rep. Lance Harvell (R-Farmington); Rep. Peter Johnson (R-Greenville), Rep. Jane Knapp (R-Gorham), Rep. Melvin Newendyke (R-Litchfield), Rep. Wayne Parry (R-Arundel), Rep. Ralph Sarty, Jr. (R-Denmark), Rep. Dianne Tilton (R-Harrington) and Rep. Tom J. Winsor (R-Norway).**

Maine workers met with their legislators to ask them to oppose a bill to weaken the unemployment insurance system (LD 1725). In meetings and conversations with their constituents, **Sen. Tom Martin (R – Waterville), Rep. Dana Dow (R – Waldoboro), Rep. Ray Wallace (R – Dexter) and Rep. Mel Newendyke (R – Litchfield)** all pledged to oppose key components of the bill only to flip-flop and support it in committee after pressure from the Governor and their Party.



# What District Do I Live In?

	House District	Senate District		House District	Senate District		House District	Senate District
ADDISON	33	29	CHARLESTON	24	33	GOULDSBORO	34	28
ALBANY TOWNSHIP	91	14	CHARLOTTE	31	29	GRAND FALLS TOWNSHIP	11	31
ALBION	55	25	CHEBEAGUE ISLAND	108	11	GRAND ISLE	3	35
ALEXANDER	30	29	CHELSEA	52	21	GRAND LAKE STREAM	11	29
ALLAGASH	1	35	CHERRYFIELD	33	29	GRAY	109, 110	11
ALNA	53	20	CHESTER	11	27	GREAT POND	30	29
ALTON	13	30	CHESTERVILLE	87	18	GREENBUSH	13	30
AMHERST	30	31	CHINA	55	24	GREENE	75	17
AMITY	8	34	CLIFTON	20	31	GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP	11	31
ANDOVER	92	14	CLINTON	29	25	GREENLAW CHOPPING TOWNSHIP	11	29
ANSON	88	26	CODYVILLE PLANTATION	11	29	GREENVILLE	27	27
APPLETON	44	22	COLUMBIA	33	29	GREENWOOD	95	14
ARGYLE TOWNSHIP	13	30	COLUMBIA FALLS	33	29	GUILFORD	27	27
ARROWSIC	61	19	CONCORD TOWNSHIP	88	26	HALLOWELL	79	21
ARUNDEL	140	4	CONNOR TOWNSHIP	3	35	HAMLIN	3	35
ASHLAND	1	34	COOPER	30	29	HAMMOND	7	34
ATHENS	24	26	COOPERS MILLS	52	20	HAMPDEN	39	33
ATKINSON	26	27	COPLIN PLANTATION	88	18	HANCOCK	34	28
ATLANTIC	36	28	COREA	34	28	HANOVER	91	14
AUBURN	68, 69, 70	15	CORINNA	25	33	HARBORSIDE	37	28
AUGUSTA	56, 57, 58	24	CORINTH	22, 25	33	HARMONY	24	27
AURORA	30	31	CORNISH	99	2	HARPSWELL	64	10
AVON	90	18	CORNVILLE	28	26	HARRINGTON	33	29
BAILEY ISLAND	64	10	COSTIGAN	13	31	HARRISON	98	13
BAILEYVILLE	31	29	CRANBERRY ISLES	35	28	HARTFORD	94	14
BALDWIN	99	13	CRAWFORD	30	29	HARTLAND	28	27
BANCROFT	9	34	CRIEHAVEN	48	22	HAYNESVILLE	9	34
BANGOR	15 - 18	32	CROSS LAKE TOWNSHIP	2	35	HEBRON	96	14
BAR HARBOR	35	28	CROUSEVILLE	7	35	HERMON	23	32
BAR MILLS	131	5	CRYSTAL	9	34	HERSEY	9	34
BARING PLANTATION	31	29	CUMBERLAND	108	11	HERSEYTOWN TOWNSHIP	9	27
BARNARD TOWNSHIP	27	27	CUSHING	49	22	HIBBERTS GORE	52	20
BASS HARBOR	36	28	CUTLER	32	29	HIGHLAND PLANTATION	88	26
BATH	62, 65	19	CYR PLANTATION	3	35	HINCKLEY	84	26
BEALS	33	29	DALLAS PLANTATION	91	18	HIRAM	97	13
BEAVER COVE	27	27	DAMARISCOTTA	51	20	HODGDON	8	34
BEDDINGTON	30	29	DANFORTH	11	29	HOLDEN	20	31
BELFAST	43	23	DAYTON	140	5	HOLLIS	131	12
BELGRADE	83	18	DEBLOIS	30	29	HOPE	44	22
BELGRADE LAKES	83	18	DEDHAM	20	31	HOULTON	8	34
BELMONT	43	23	DEER ISLE	36	28	HOWLAND	12	30
BENEDICTA TOWNSHIP	9	34	DENMARK	99	13	HUDSON	13	30
BENTON	54	25	DENNISTOWN PLANTATION	88	26	HULLS COVE	35	28
BENTON	55	25	DENNYVILLE	30	29	INDIAN ISLAND	14	30
BERNARD	36	28	DETROIT	29	25	INDIAN PURCHASE TOWNSHIP T3	9	27
BERWICK	145	2	DEXTER	24	33	INDIAN PURCHASE TOWNSHIP T3	10	27
BETHEL	91	14	DIXFIELD	93	14	INDIAN PURCHASE TOWNSHIP T4	10	27
BIDDEFORD	135	4	DIXMONT	39	33	INDIAN TOWNSHIP VOTING DISTRICT (PASSAMAQUODDY INDIAN TOWNSHIP)	31	29
BIDDEFORD	135, 136, 137	4, 5	DOVER FOXCROFT	26	27	INDUSTRY	89	18
BIDDEFORD POOL	137	4	DRESDEN	53	19	ISLAND FALLS	9	34
BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP	11	29	DREW PLANTATION	11	29	ISLE AU HAUT	36	28
BINGHAM	88	26	DRYDEN	90	18	ISLESBORO	44	23
BIRCH HARBOR	34	28	DURHAM	105	15	JACKMAN	88	26
BLAINE	6	34	DYER BROOK	9	34	JACKSON	42	23
BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP	27	27	E TOWNSHIP	7	34	JAY	87	14
BLUE HILL	37	28	EAGLE LAKE	1	35	JEFFERSON	50, 52	20
BOOTHBAY	61	20	EAST ANDOVER	92	14	JONESBORO	30	29
BOOTHBAY HARBOR	61	20	EAST CORINTH	22, 25	33	JONESPORT	33	29
BOWDOIN	67	19	EAST DIXFIELD	93	14	KENDUSKEAG	22	33
BOWDOINHAM	67	19	EAST MACHIAS	30	29	KENNEBUNK	140, 141	4
BOWERBANK	27	27	EAST MILLINOCKET	10	27	KENNEBUNKPORT	137	4
BRADFORD	13	30	EASTBROOK	30	29	KENTS HILL	82	18
BRADLEY	20	31	EASTON	6	34	KINGFIELD	91	18
BREMEN	50	20	EASTPORT	32	29	KINGMAN TOWNSHIP	11	30
BREWER	20, 21	31	EDDINGTON	20	31	KINGSBURY PLANTATION	27	27
BRIDGEWATER	6	34	EDGECOMB	51	20	KITTERY	149, 151	1
BRIDGTON	98	13	EDINBURG	12	30	KNOX	45	23
BRIGHTON PLANTATION	88	26	EDMUNDS TOWNSHIP	30	29	KOSSUTH TOWNSHIP	11	29
BRISTOL	51	20	ELIOT	148	1	LAGRANGE	13	30
BROOKLIN	36	28	ELLIOTTSVILLE TOWNSHIP	27	27	LAKE VIEW PLANTATION	26	27
BROOKS	42	23	ELLSWORTH	38	28	LAKEVILLE	11	29
BROOKSVILLE	37	28	EMBDEN	88	26	LAMBERT LAKE TOWNSHIP	11	29
BROOKTON TOWNSHIP	11	29	ENFIELD	12	30	LAMOINE	34	28
BROWNFIELD	97	13	ETNA	23	33	LEBANON	144, 145	2
BROWNVILLE	27	27	EUSTIS	91	18	LEE	11	30
BRUNSWICK	63, 65, 66	10	EXETER	25	33	LEEDS	81	17
BRYANT POND	91	14	FAIRFIELD	84	26	LEVANT	22	33
BUCKFIELD	94	14	FALMOUTH	112, 113	11	LEWISTON	70-74	16
BUCKSPORT	40	31	FARMINGDALE	79	21	LEXINGTON TOWNSHIP	88	26
BURLINGTON	11	31	FARMINGTON	89	18	LIBERTY	44	23
BURNHAM	45	23	FARMINGTON FALLS	89	18	LILLE	3	35
BUXTON	130, 131	5	FAYETTE	83	18	LIMESTONE	3	35
BYRON	92	14	FLETCHERS LANDING TOWNSHIP	34	28	LIMINGTON	99	3
CALAIS	31	29	FOREST CITY TOWNSHIP	11	29	LINCOLN	12	30
CAMBRIDGE	27	27	FORT FAIRFIELD	6	34	LINCOLN PLANTATION	91	14
CAMDEN	46	22	FORT KENT	1	35	LINCOLNVILLE	44	23
CAMP ELLIS	133	5	FRANKFORT	41	23	LINNEUS	9	34
CANAAN	28	26	FRANKLIN	30	29	LISBON & LISBON FALLS	104, 105	17
CANTON	93	14	FREEDOM	45	23	LITCHFIELD	80	21
CAPE ELIZABETH	121, 123	7	FREEMAN TOWNSHIP	90	18	LITTLE DEER ISLE	36	28
CAPE PORPOISE	137	4	FREEPORT	106	10	LITTLETON	7	34
CARATUNK	88	26	FRENCHBORO	36	28	LIVERMORE	81	17
CARIBOU	4	35	FRENCHVILLE	2	35	LIVERMORE FALLS	81	17
CARMEL	23	33	FRIENDSHIP	49	20	LOCKE MILLS	95	14
CARRABASSETT VALLEY	88	18	FRYE ISLAND	103	12	LONG A TOWNSHIP	10	27
CARROLL PLANTATION	11	29	FRYEBURG	97	13	LONG ISLAND	108	11
CARTHAGE	93	18	GARDINER	59	21	LOVELL	98	14
CARY PLANTATION	8	34	GARFIELD PLANTATION	1	35	LOWELL	11	31
CASCO	101	12	GARLAND	24	33	LUBEC	32	29
CASTINE	37	31	GEORGETOWN	61	19	LUDLOW	9	34
CASTLE HILL	7	35	GILEAD	91	14	LYMAN	139, 140	3
CASWELL	3	35	GLEN COVE	46	22	MACHIAS	32	29
CATHANCE TOWNSHIP	30	29	GLENBURN	22	33	MACHIASPORT	32	29
CENTERVILLE TOWNSHIP	30	29	GLENWOOD PLANTATION	9	34	MACWAHOC PLANTATION	9	34
CHAPMAN	7	34	GORHAM	129, 130	6			

# What District Do I Live In?

	House District	Senate District		House District	Senate District		House District	Senate District
MADAWASKA	2	35	PEMAQUID	51	20	STANDISH	102, 103	12
MADAWASKA LAKE TOWNSHIP	2	35	PEMBROKE	30	29	STARKS	87	26
MADISON	86	26	PENOBSCOT	37	31	STEEP FALLS	102	12
MADRID TOWNSHIP	92	18	PENOBSCOT INDIAN ISLAND	14	30	STETSON	23	33
MAGALLOWAY PLANTATION	91	14	PERHAM	2	35	STEUBEN	33	29
MANCHESTER	83	21	PERKINS TOWNSHIP (FR)	90	18	STILLWATER	14	30
MANSET	35	28	PERKINS TOWNSHIP (SAG)	67	19	STOCKHOLM	2	35
MAPLETON	7	35	PERRY	31	29	STOCKTON SPRINGS	41	23
MARIAVILLE	30	31	PERU	93	14	STONEHAM	91	14
MARION TOWNSHIP	30	29	PHILLIPS	90	18	STONINGTON	36	28
MARS HILL	6	34	PHIPPSBURG	64	19	STOW	98	14
MARSHFIELD	30	29	PITTSFIELD	29	25	STRATTON	91	18
MASARDIS	7	34	PITTSTON	53	21	STRONG	90	18
MASON TOWNSHIP	91	14	PLAISTED	1	35	SULLIVAN	34	28
MATINICUS ISLE PLANTATION	48	22	PLEASANT POINT VOTING DIST. (PASSAMAQUODDY PLEASANT POINT)	31	29	SUMMIT TOWNSHIP	11	31
MATTAWAMKEAG	11	30	PLEASANT RIDGE PLANTATION	88	26	SUMNER	94	14
MAXFIELD	12	30	PLYMOUTH	25	33	SUNSET	36	28
MECHANIC FALLS	100	17	POLAND	101, 103	15	SURRY	37	28
MEDDYBEMPS	30	29	POLAND SPRING	103	15	SWAN'S ISLAND	36	28
MEDFORD	26	27	PORTAGE LAKE	2	35	SWANVILLE	42	23
MEDOMAK	50	20	PORTER	97	13	SWEDEN	98	14
MEDWAY	10	27	PORTLAND	113 - 120	8 & 9	TALMADGE	11	29
MERCER	87	18	POWNAI	106, 109	10	TEMPLE	90	18
MERRILL	9	34	PRENTISS TOWNSHIP	11	29	TENANTS HARBOR	48	22
MEXICO	93	14	PRESQUE ISLE	5, 7	34	THE FORKS	88	26
MILBRIDGE	33	29	PRINCETON	11	29	THOMASTON	48	22
MILFORD	13	31	PROSPECT	41	23	THORNDIKE	45	23
MILLINOCKET	10	27	PROSPECT HARBOR	34	28	TOPSFIELD	11	29
MILO	26	27	QUIMBY	1	35	TOPSHAM	60, 65	19
MILTON TOWNSHIP	91	14	RANDOLPH	59	21	TREMONT	36	28
MINOT	96	17	RANGELEY	91	18	TRENTON	38	28
MINTURN	36	28	RANGELEY PLANTATION	92	18	TRESCOTT TOWNSHIP	32	29
MOLUNKUS TOWNSHIP	9	34	RAYMOND	103	12	TROY	45	23
MONHEGAN PLANTATION	51	20	READFIELD	82	18	TURNER	96	17
MONMOUTH	80	21	REED PLANTATION	9	34	TWOMBLY TOWNSHIP	11	30
MONROE	42	23	RICHMOND	67	19	UNION	49	22
MONSON	27	27	RIPLEY	24	27	UNITY	45	23
MONTICELLO	7	34	ROBBINSTON	31	29	UNITY TOWNSHIP	55	25
MONTVILLE	45	23	ROBINHOOD	61	19	UPPER FRENCHVILLE	2	35
MOODY	149	2	ROCKLAND	47	22	UPTON	91	14
MOOSE RIVER	88	26	ROCKPORT	46	22	VAN BUREN	3	35
MORO PLANTATION	9	34	ROCKWOOD STRIP T1	88	26	VANCEBORO	11	29
MORRILL	44	23	ROCKWOOD STRIP T2	88	26	VASSALBORO	58	24
MOSCOW	88	26	ROME	84	18	VEAZIE	18	30
MOUNT CHASE	9	27	ROQUE BLUFFS	32	29	VERONA ISLAND	41	31
MOUNT DESERT	35, 36	28	ROUND POND	51	20	VIENNA	83	18
MOUNT VERNON	83	18	ROXBURY	92	14	VINALHAVEN	36	22
NAPLES	101	13	RUMFORD	92	14	WADE	7	35
NASHVILLE PLANTATION	1	35	SABATTUS	75	17	WAITE	11	29
NEW CANADA	2	35	SACO	133, 134	5	WALDO	42	23
NEW GLOUCESTER	105	15	SALEM TOWNSHIP	90, 91	18	WALDOBORO	50	20
NEW HARBOR	51	20	SANDY RIVER PLANTATION	92	18	WALES	80	17
NEW LIMERICK	9	34	SANFORD	142, 143, 144	3	WALLAGRASS	1	35
NEW PORTLAND	88	26	SANGERVILLE	26	27	WALTHAM	34	29
NEW SHARON	87	18	SARGENTVILLE	37	28	WARREN	49	22
NEW SWEDEN	3	35	SCARBOROUGH	127, 128	6 & 7	WASHBURN	7	35
NEW VINEYARD	90	18	SEAL COVE	36	28	WASHINGTON	52	20
NEWBURGH	39	33	SEARSMONT	44	23	WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP	90	18
NEWCASTLE	51	20	SEARSPORT	41	23	WATERBORO	139	3
NEWPORT	25	33	SEBAGO	99	13	WATERFORD	95	14
NEWRY	91	14	SEBEC	27	27	WATERVILLE	76, 77	25
NOBLEBORO	50	20	SEBOEIS PLANTATION	12	27	WAYNE	81	18
NORRIDGEWOCK	86	26	SEBOOMOOK TOWNSHIP	88	26	WEBSTER PLANTATION	11	30
NORTH AMITY	8	34	SEDGWICK	37	28	WEEKS MILLS	55	24
NORTH BERWICK	146	2	SHERIDAN	1	34	WELD	92	18
NORTH BROOKLIN	36	28	SHERMAN	9	34	WELLINGTON	88	27
NORTH HAVEN	36	22	SHERMAN STATION	9	27	WELLS	147, 149	2
NORTH WINDHAM	110, 111	12	SHIRLEY	27	27	WESLEY	30	29
NORTH YARMOUTH	108, 109	11	SIDNEY	78	24	WEST BALDWIN	99	13
NORTHEAST HARBOR	35	28	SILVER RIDGE TOWNSHIP	9	34	WEST BATH	64, 65	19
NORTHFIELD	30	29	SINCLAIR	2	35	WEST BETHEL	91	14
NORTHPORT	43	23	SKOWHEGAN	85	26	WEST ENFIELD	12	30
NORWAY	95	13	SMITHFIELD	84	18	WEST FORKS PLANTATION	88	26
OAKFIELD	9	34	SMYRNA	9	34	WEST GARDINER	79	21
OAKLAND	76, 78	24	SMYRNA MILLS	9	34	WEST PARIS	95	14
OCEAN PARK	132	5	SOLDIER POND	1	35	WESTBROOK	125, 126	6 & 9
OGUNQUIT	149	1	OLON	86	26	WESTFIELD	6	34
OLAMON	13	30	SOMERVILLE	52	20	WESTMANLAND	2	35
OLD ORCHARD BEACH	132	5	SORRENTO	34	28	WESTON	9	34
OLD TOWN	14	30	SOUTH BERWICK	146, 148	1	WESTPORT ISLAND	61	20
OQUOSSOC	91	18	SOUTH BRISTOL	51	20	WHITEFIELD	52	20
ORIENT	8	34	SOUTH CASCO	101	12	WHITING	32	29
ORLAND	41	31	SOUTH CHINA	55	24	WHITNEY TOWNSHIP	11	29
ORNEVILLE TOWNSHIP	26	27	SOUTH FREEPORT	106	10	WHITNEYVILLE	30	29
ORONO	18, 19	30	SOUTH GARDINER	59	21	WILLIMANTIC	27	27
ORRINGTON	40	31	SOUTH HARPSWELL	64	10	WILTON	90	18
ORRS ISLAND	64	10	SOUTH HIRAM	97	13	WINDHAM	110, 111	12
OSBORN	30	29	SOUTH PARIS	94	13	WINDSOR	58	20
OTIS	38	31	SOUTH PORTLAND	122, 123, 124	7	WINN	11	30
OTISFIELD	100	13	SOUTH THOMASTON	48	22	WINSLOW	54	25
OTTER CREEK	35	28	SOUTH WATERBORO	139	3	WINTER HARBOR	34	28
OWL'S HEAD	47, 48	22	SOUTH WINDHAM	111	12	WINTERPORT	42	23
OXBOW PLANTATION	7	34	SOUTHPORT	61	20	WINTERVILLE PLANTATION	1	35
OXFORD	100	13	SOUTHWEST HARBOR	35	28	WINTHROP	82	21
PALERMO	45	23	SPRINGFIELD	11	30	WISCASSET	53	20
PALMYRA	28	27	SPRINGVALE	143, 144	3	WOODLAND	3	35
PARIS	94	13	SPRUCE HEAD	48	22	WOODSTOCK	91	14
PARKMAN	27	27	ST. AGATHA	2	35	WOODVILLE	11	27
PARSONSFIELD	97	2	ST. ALBANS	28	27	WOOLWICH	65	19
PASSADUMKEAG	11	30	ST. DAVID	2	35	WYMAN TOWNSHIP	88	18
PASSAMAQUODDY INDIAN	31	29	ST. FRANCIS	1	35	WYTOPITLOCK	9	34
PASSAMAQUODDY PLEASANT	31	29	ST. GEORGE	48	22	YARMOUTH	107	11
PATTEN	9	27	ST. JOHN PLANTATION	1	35	YORK	149, 150	1
PEAKS ISLAND	114	8	STACYVILLE	9	27			
PEJEPSCOT	60	19						

# 2012: The Year in Pictures



## *Questions From a Worker Who Reads by Bertolt Brecht*

Who built Thebes of the seven gates?  
In the books you will read the names of kings.  
Did the kings haul up the lumps of rock?

And Babylon, many times demolished,  
Who raised it up so many times?

In what houses of gold glittering Lima did its builders live?  
Where, the evening that the Great Wall of China was finished,  
did the masons go?

Great Rome is full of triumphal arches.  
Who erected them?

Over whom did the Caesars triumph?  
Had Byzantium, much praised in song,  
only palaces for its inhabitants?

Even in fabled Atlantis, the night that the ocean engulfed it,  
The drowning still cried out for their slaves.

The young Alexander conquered India.  
Was he alone?

Caesar defeated the Gauls.  
Did he not even have a cook with him?

Philip of Spain wept when his armada went down.  
Was he the only one to weep?

Frederick the 2nd won the 7 Years War.  
Who else won it?

Every page a victory.  
Who cooked the feast for the victors?

Every 10 years a great man.  
Who paid the bill?

So many reports.

So many questions.



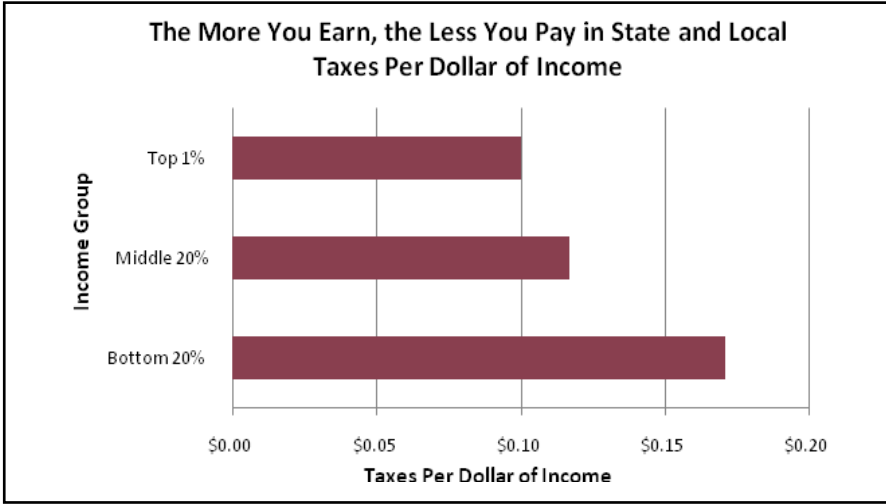
# The Truth Behind the Legislature's "Tax Cuts"

Expecting to see a tax cut in your bill this year? Don't hold your breath. You could actually see a tax **hike**. Governor LePage and his legislative supporters are shifting taxes from **Maine families making over \$354,000** – the top 1% – onto the rest of us. Maine working families already pay more than our fair share in taxes relative to the top 1% of Mainers. Thanks to Governor LePage and his legislative allies the picture is about to get worse.

## Shifting Who Pays: The Rich Get Even Richer

Governor LePage's signature tax proposals deliver the greatest benefits to Maine's top 1% – families earning over \$354,000.

- The 2011 Income Tax Cut gave the bottom 20% of Maine families an average tax cut of \$7 a year. The middle 20% got an average tax cut of \$132. **The 1% got \$2,810.**
- Another law, LD 849, reduces the top income tax rate to 4% over time. When fully implemented, the average benefit to the bottom 20% of taxpayers will be \$1. For the middle 20% of families, the average benefit is \$241. **The top 1% will get a whopping \$21,638** – nearly 90 times the benefit of everyday working Mainers.
- Changes in the Estate Tax will only benefit 550 estates worth \$1 million or more, while taking millions from the state budget.



MECEP analysis of ME Revenue Services Data

You get the picture. Maine's top 1% will pay even less in taxes per dollar of income while the rest of us may actually see our taxes go up.

## A Rich Family's Tax Cut Is a Working Family's Tax Increase

As a result of these tax shifts, the state budget will see a significant loss of revenue in future years and more budget cuts. Because of the recession, state funding for education and other local services was already limited. Governor LePage's tax cuts for the rich made a tough situation even worse. State and local budgets are shrinking. All across Maine, towns are facing a tough choice:

1. cut school budgets and lay off teachers,
2. cut other local services, or
3. raise property taxes to make up for the loss of state aid.

When income taxes on the rich go down, property taxes go up and working families end up paying more than their fair share. That's how LePage's **tax cuts for the rich** turn into **tax hikes for the rest of us**.

**IF U.S. LAND WERE DIVIDED LIKE U.S. WEALTH**



What's more, while cutting taxes for the rich, the Legislature whacked the pensions and retirement security of retired teachers, snow plow drivers, nurses and other state employees. **Many retirees actually saw a tax hike.**

Tax breaks for the wealthy at the state and federal level also contribute to soaring levels of economic inequality. This follows a national pattern: for the last forty years taxes have been shifted from corporations to individuals and from the rich to the rest of us.

## The Agenda Behind the Tax Shifts

Governor LePage's approach is not unique. It is part of a national **Shrink, Shift, Shaft** agenda to:

- **Shrink** state and local budgets by cutting taxes.
- **Shift** who pays – from the top 1% onto the people in the middle and the bottom.
- **Shaft** working people who pay taxes and count on public services like good public schools.

For working people, this approach shifts more public service costs to us. We pay more to send our kids to college when the state contributes less to higher education. We face tough choices when state support for child care is reduced or when an elderly parent loses access to health care benefits. We pay more in car repairs when our roads aren't maintained.

This approach is designed to undermine government – so that it can't repair roads, fund public schools, provide retirement security and play a role in shared prosperity – and lead down the road to privatization. There is a better approach than the "wheel of misfortune." One in which the rich pay their fair share and government works as it should to ensure the rights of working people and support a strong economy.



*The Maine AFL-CIO Education Committee works to get out good economics education materials. Want to put up posters in your worksite or get more involved? Contact Cynthia Phinney, [cynth@gwi.net](mailto:cynth@gwi.net), 491-9928 or Stacy Brown, [stacy@maineaflcio.org](mailto:stacy@maineaflcio.org), 622-9675.*

# Now that you know the score, take action!

**Contact your legislators.** It is important that elected officials continue to hear from you. Please thank your legislators if they voted with workers. If they voted against collective bargaining rights or to weaken workers' compensation, let them know you are disappointed and expect better from them next session. Find the contact info for your legislators by visiting our website: [www.maineafclcio.org/findmyrep](http://www.maineafclcio.org/findmyrep)

**Write a letter to your local newspaper.** Let others know how your legislators voted on working family issues.

**Elections matter.** What we win at the bargaining table, we can lose at the Legislature. The people we elect to public office can weaken years of protections or advance our values.

## Candidate School 2012 Report Back

We believe that workers make great candidates and elected officials. We also believe that when workers run, workers win.

That's why the Maine AFL-CIO launched our **Worker Candidate Training Program** this year. The program is designed to recruit and train union members and working class people to run for office and win. We were thrilled to train 20 union members and allies in our first program this year.

The 3-day training included workshops all about running for office, from campaign planning to public speaking, from developing your message to knocking on doors. A number of the participants have decided to run for office this year, while others will help on campaigns, and still others are considering running in the future.

We will hold our training program again in 2013. **Do you know someone from your union who would make a great candidate?** Get them in touch with us for the 2013 class. Contact Sarah at 622-9675 or [sarah@maineafclcio.org](mailto:sarah@maineafclcio.org).



**Class of 2012 members:** Emery Deabay, USW 1188; Joel Pitcher, Machinists S-6; Joe Mailey, Sheetmetal 17; Darrell Adams; Lorette Adams; Sonya Lundh -Gay; Roger Gay, UNITE HERE 406; Jay Wadleigh, Machinists S-6; Don Bilodeau, Machinists S-6; Earl Boyd, IATSE 114; Elizabeth O'Connor, AFSCME 2011; Troy Richardson, Teamsters 340; Stanley Short; Maurice Castonguay, APWU 458; Robert Saucier, AFGE 1168; Jay Meigs-MacDonald, MEA; Dave Driscoll, MEA; Richard Fournier, NALC 92; Karen Rancourt, MEA and Loren Snow, MSEA-SEIU 1989.

## Stay connected!

The only way we can build a stronger labor movement is if we stay in touch! Visit our website, [www.maineafclcio.org](http://www.maineafclcio.org). Sign up for our Maine AFL-CIO email alerts to receive occasional updates at [www.maineafclcio.org/signup](http://www.maineafclcio.org/signup). You can also "Like" our page on **Facebook** to stay up to date. Search for **Maine AFL-CIO**.



*Flanked by legislative allies and Maine workers, Emery Deabay (USW 1188) speaks out against the Workers' Comp bill prior to a public hearing at the State House in Augusta.*

## Maine Question #1: Same-sex Marriage on November Ballot

In addition to electing a large number of national, state and local candidates, this fall Maine voters will again be asked to decide whether or not to allow gay and lesbian couples to marry. The Maine AFL-CIO has decided not to make an endorsement either way on this referendum question but has embarked on a series of discussions about how this issue affects unions and workers.

Unions negotiate contracts on behalf of all of our members - both straight and gay - and try to make sure everyone receives the same wages and benefits. Many gay couples are not eligible for health insurance and other benefits that married heterosexual couples can enjoy because the State of Maine does not allow same-sex couples to marry. For this reason alone, many union members support a "yes" vote on question #1 as a labor issue. They believe all of their union brothers and sisters should have access to the same benefits regardless of their sexual orientation.

Yet many union members remain opposed to same-sex marriage on personal or religious grounds and plan to vote "no" on question #1. While they agree that all union members should be eligible for the same benefits, they believe that the labor issues involved should be dealt with at the bargaining table. They point out that some unions - to their credit - have succeeded in negotiating health insurance and other benefits for gay and lesbian couples into their contracts.

But even when unions are successful in negotiating access to certain benefits for same-sex couples, state and federal laws treat them as unmarried and therefore treat them differently. As one example, the cost of health benefits for same-sex couples and their children are taxable under state and federal law while benefits for married heterosexual couples and their children are not. If same-sex marriage passes in Maine, it would have no impact on the federal tax liability but would remove the state tax inequality. There are hundreds of laws like this, laws that treat workers and family members differently based on marital status.

Discussions about what this inequality means for us as union members, about what the economic impact is like for gay and lesbian union members who don't have the choice to marry, and about how this issue affects the political process are important discussions to have. Whether we support or oppose same-sex marriage as individuals, as union members we should be careful not to allow anti-union groups and politicians to use it as a wedge issue to divide us.