



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

Dear Citizens of Waterford:

Maine has a long tradition of civil participation in both state and local government, and I thank you for being informed and involved citizens.

My vision for Maine is prosperity, not poverty. For this reason, one of my top priorities continues to be the reduction and eventual elimination of the income tax. Raising the minimum wage is not the path out of poverty; I want Mainers to earn a career wage. Reducing the income tax is the biggest and most immediate pay raise for all hard-working Mainers.

Not only does an income tax cut put more money back in your pockets, but it will also attract businesses that can offer good-paying careers to keep our young people here. It shows the nation that we are serious about wanting people and businesses to come—and stay—in Maine.

Unfortunately, voters approved a referendum question to raise the income tax to 10.15% on successful Maine households and small businesses. Enacting the second highest income tax rate in the country shows the nation we are eager to punish people for being successful. It will drive them out of our state and make it even more difficult to attract much-needed doctors, dentists, scientists, engineers and other professionals to Maine. They can live in neighboring New Hampshire, which takes no income tax from their paychecks. Even worse, there is no guarantee the extra revenue from this tax will go to fund education, as proponents promised.

As successful people leave Maine, state and municipal government will lose the significant amount they pay in property, sales and incomes taxes. This will put even more upward pressure on local property taxes. Municipalities will have to get more creative to provide local services without increasing property taxes. Reforming the tree growth program, collecting property taxes on land in conservation or preservation programs, charging a payment in lieu of taxes on state land that is taken off the property tax rolls and having non-profit organizations pay a two-percent tax on their net revenues are all ways for municipalities to increase revenues.

Such bold measures would take strong leadership and commitment from local officials and residents. If ever I can be of assistance to you or if you have any questions or suggestions, I encourage you to contact my office by calling 287-3531 or by visiting our website at [www.maine.gov/governor](http://www.maine.gov/governor).

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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