

A BETTER STATE OF MAINE

A VISION FOR A MAINE
WHERE FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES
CAN PLANT THEIR ROOTS

MAINE
LEGISLATIVE
DEMOCRATS



A BETTER STATE OF MAINE

Maine is a state rich in traditions, natural resources and untapped potential for growth. Despite these benefits, we face a challenge that must be addressed:

Young people are leaving the state in greater numbers than they are moving here.

Our next generation is our greatest asset. We must direct our energy toward policies that will make young people and their families want to plant their roots here.

We must:

Invest in our infrastructure from our roads to clean energy to broadband networks.

Maintain the **traditional jobs** that naturally thrive here and bring in **new high-quality jobs** in growing industries.

Foster the kind of environment that young families want to live in – strong communities that feel like home with good jobs and strong education systems.

Maine Democrats have a vision and a blueprint to make Maine the place where young people want to stay and raise their families. We set these priorities with one goal in mind – **to create a better state of Maine.**



Democrats have fought for the diverse energy portfolio Maine needs, including job-creating energy sources such as solar power.

* Check the facts: LD 1649 - An Act to Modernize Maine's Solar Power Policy and Encourage Economic Development

INVESTING IN THINGS THAT LAST

Start with the fundamentals. Young families and businesses want and need an updated transportation infrastructure, clean energy and a solid broadband network that connects rural businesses with new markets and gives workers the flexibility to clock in from anywhere. This foundation is fundamental to the modern economy. Investments in Maine's infrastructure will make our state more attractive to businesses and entrepreneurs, and make our economy more competitive for generations to come.

Democrats will:

Modernize our infrastructure by building and repairing our roads, bridges, ports and rails.

Expand access to broadband throughout Maine.

Support clean energy and create good-paying jobs to meet the new demand.

People want to live in Maine but to stay here they need to be able to earn a living. In the short-term, these investments create jobs, lots of jobs. In the long-term, these investments lay the groundwork for sustained economic growth in the future.

The return on investment will be seen for years. This is the first step on the pathway to our prosperous future. **This is how we grow.**



Democrats fought – and won – a battle in the Legislature to ensure tax cuts for the middle class and working Mainers, not giveaways to the super wealthy.

* Check the facts: 2016-2017 Biennial State Budget

MAINE'S NATURAL ADVANTAGE

TAKING WHAT WE DO BEST TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Let's not forget where we come from. Mainer's work ethic and Maine's natural resources, farmland and fisheries are some of our greatest assets. On that foundation, Maine has built a rich tradition of fishing, agriculture and aquaculture, manufacturing and creating high-quality products and brands such as LL Bean and Old Town Canoe. These traditional Maine industries must continue to thrive.

Maine Democrats will support partnerships between community colleges and vocational schools and these industries to ensure that we have a workforce with the skills to maintain them as the foundation of our economy. These are good-paying, skilled jobs like boat building that have been here for generations and are unique to Maine. We have to put resources behind these vocational programs and educate our young people and their families about the opportunities available to them.

The strength of Maine's food economy is also an important foundation for our success. With smart investments and strategies, our food industries can not only thrive, but can elevate Maine to be the food-basket of New England.

Democrats will:

Support Maine farmers and fishermen by helping them collaborate and get products to market through the creation of regional food hubs.

Build upon success in partnering colleges and universities with growing industries to ensure prosperity for workers and companies alike.

These natural assets that are unique to Maine give us so much potential. Investments in these vital industries will create jobs for generations to come, support a sustainable economy and help us achieve **a better state of Maine for all of us – young and old alike.**



Maine Democrats have always fought to give our students the resources they need, including \$95 million in additional school funding over the past two years.

* Check the facts: 2016-2017 Biennial State Budget; LD 1641.

COMMUNITY

CREATING PLACES WHERE YOUNG FAMILIES CAN THRIVE

Young Mainers need good-paying jobs in order to stay, but they also need a community they can call home. Young families want vibrant, healthy, connected communities where they can plant their roots and grow.

Maine Democrats will promote policies to build and support communities where young people and young families want to live.

Democrats will:

Reinvigorate our downtowns and village centers to support the businesses and lifestyle that young people demand.

Invest in early childhood and K-12 education and improve access to childcare.

Help young families plant roots in local communities by encouraging home ownership.

Quality of life is critical to keeping Mainers, young and old, here for the next generation. People want good-paying jobs, housing, good schools and strong, livable communities. **That is a better state of Maine.**

A BETTER STATE OF MAINE



We know that Maine's future success requires long-term thinking and vision. But we cannot lose sight of the immediate challenges Maine faces.

As Democrats pursue a Better State of Maine, we also will continue to fight for:

- A balanced approach to solve the drug crisis, including treatment, prevention and law enforcement.
- Real reform that ensures Maine's safety net lifts people out of poverty in a way that is smart, tough and fair.
- Tax relief that benefits middle class and working Mainers, not just the wealthy and powerful.
- Policies that help seniors age with dignity in their own homes and stay connected with their communities.

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