



Senate President TROY JACKSON

DISTRICT 1

Proudly Representing the people of northern Aroostook County

Dear Friend,

This session, I had the great honor and privilege of being elected Maine's Senate President. In this role, I've made a commitment to put everyday people first. As a result, we've been able to achieve much of what I've fought for my entire life, positive change for the working people of Aroostook County.

“ I've always believed working people and everyday Mainers deserve a strong voice in Augusta.”

This is what drove me to get involved years ago, and it's what continues to drive much of my work in the State House today. I never forget who I'm fighting for or what's at stake.

One of my first acts in this new role was to ensure Democrats and Republicans in the Senate were seated next to each other instead of being divided by a partisan aisle. If we're going to tackle serious challenges in Augusta, we need to work together toward common goals — supporting working people, investing in small businesses, laying the groundwork for the success of our children and helping our seniors. Overall, I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish this session for Mainers.

- **We passed a budget that provides \$130 million in property tax relief without raising taxes.** This means more Mainers can afford to stay in their homes and make ends meet.
- **We stood up to “Big Pharma,” and won.** We fought to make health care more affordable and accessible and supported rural hospitals and ambulances.
- **I introduced a new law that will allow a potato processing facility to be built in Washburn.** This law will create new jobs and spur investment in the County while promoting Maine produce.
- **I fought for Maine loggers and wood haulers, by passing a bill that gives them the right to negotiate pay and benefits.** For too long, people working in the woods have been left behind and forgotten.

We did a lot of good work to make Maine a better place to live, work, raise a family and eventually retire. But there is still more work to do. I promise to keep fighting for your health, family, job and wallet as long as I'm here. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me about the issues that matter to you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in Augusta. It's an honor.

CONTACT TROY:

MAIL

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

PHONE

Office: (207) 287-1500
Cell: (207) 436-0763

ONLINE

senatorjackson1@gmail.com
www.mainesenate.org

Standing up for veterans

Our veterans have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. While we can't fully repay them, we can always find new ways to respect their service. Last year, a Caribou constituent approached me with the idea to allow moose lottery winners to donate their permit to a disabled veteran. It seemed like a great way to say thanks so I proudly sponsored the bill this year, which became law with bipartisan support. In addition, we passed a law providing complementary hunting, fishing and trapping licenses to Gold Star Families.

Many service members need treatment for service-related injuries. **This year, I cosponsored a bill creating veteran-friendly workplaces in Maine to ensure veterans can take time off for medical appointments.**

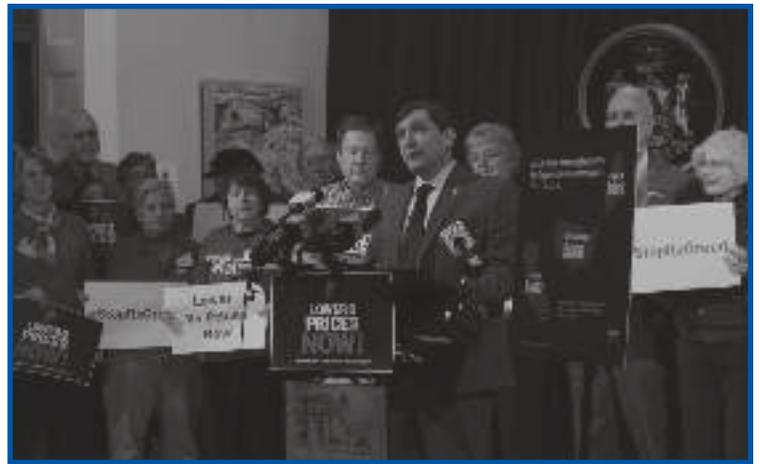
Finally, we tackled veteran homelessness by supporting local organizations, like the Caribou Homeless Veterans' Center, that give veterans the tools they need to get back on their feet. We still have work to do next year.



With Gov. Janet Mills, Jay McCrum, owner of Penobscot McCrum, and Donna Turner, Washburn Town Manager, at the ceremonial bill signing.

Putting Maine jobs and workers first

Working families and small businesses are integral to our communities and economy. This session, we prioritized bills that make it easier for both to thrive. **We stood up for Maine loggers and wood haulers, by allowing them to form a cooperative and have a voice in their own lives.** We passed my bill to facilitate the construction of the McCrum processing plant in Washburn and promote rural economic development. This law creates a tax credit for Maine-based food processing and manufacturing companies. Eligible companies must offer high-paying jobs, create new jobs, use mostly Maine agricultural products and invest in communities. It should have a profound impact on the potato and local foods industry. Finally, we extended the Mainers Feeding Mainers program, which provides food banks with the resources to purchase fresh produce from 75 participating farms, increasing demand for farmers. **It shows that when we come together, we can solve our greatest challenges.**



Surrounded by seniors and health care advocates at a press conference calling out "Big Pharma" for exploiting Maine people.

We took on "Big Pharma" and we won

Too many Mainers are struggling to afford the prescription drugs they need to survive. At the same time, drug companies and middlemen are making outrageous profits off the backs of hardworking people. It isn't right. This year, I led the charge on a suite of prescription drug reform bills, which earned unanimous, bipartisan support in the Senate. **These new laws will make medicine more affordable and accessible, increase price transparency and hold corporate middlemen accountable.**

The first bill, which I sponsored, allows Maine to wholesale import prescription drugs from Canada. These are the very same drugs we buy here, just more affordable. The second bill creates a Prescription Drug Affordability Board that will finally give consumers a voice in drug pricing, curb public spending and help drive down costs. The third bill holds corporations, acting as middlemen, accountable for pocketing savings designed for consumers. The final piece of this puzzle requires drug companies to share information on costs related to drug production, marketing, advertising and consumer price.

For too long Mainers have watched the cost of prescription drugs skyrocket because lawmakers were too afraid to take on "Big Pharma." This year, we took them on and won.



Strong bipartisan relationships are key to getting things done. I'm fortunate to have Senate Republican Leader Dana Dow as a friend.

“Troy was on the front line fighting for rural hospitals, like NMMC, this year. He does a great job for us each day, especially for us in Northern Maine.”

-Peter Sirois, CEO
Northern Maine Medical Center



I joined Peter Sirois, CEO of Northern Maine Medical Center, and Kris Doody, CEO of Cary Medical Center for a press conference on funding our rural hospitals earlier this year.

Fighting for health care

Access to quality affordable health care is about the freedom to have control over your health, your life, and your future. It's why fighting to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Mainers has been my top priority this session. In January, I introduced legislation to protect Mainers with preexisting conditions and preserve the patient protections in the Affordable Care Act, such as coverage for hospitalization.

As a lifelong resident of rural Maine, I know your zip code shouldn't determine your access to health care. It's why I spearheaded efforts to fund our rural hospitals, including Northern Maine Medical Center and Cary Medical Center, and ambulance services. This year, we also took on the insurance industry and passed a bill making sure that doctors, not big insurance companies, are working with you to make decisions about what's best for your health.



I was proud to honor the Caribou Boys' basketball team at the State House this year as 2019 Class B State Champions. They had an incredible season and brought the gold ball back to Caribou for the first time in 50 years.

Keeping our promises on property tax relief

Mainers need property tax relief. It's why lowering property taxes has consistently been at the top of our agenda. In 2017, we increased the Homestead Exemption Program. In 2018, we increased the Property Tax Fairness Credit. This year, we built on that success.

Under Democratic leadership, lawmakers crafted and passed a strong, bipartisan budget that provides **\$130 million in property tax relief for hardworking Mainers, seniors and small businesses.**

We expanded the Property Tax Fairness Credit to provide relief to an additional 13,000 Mainers. Seniors can save up to \$1,200 in property taxes. Eligible working Mainers and families can save up to \$750 on property taxes or rent.

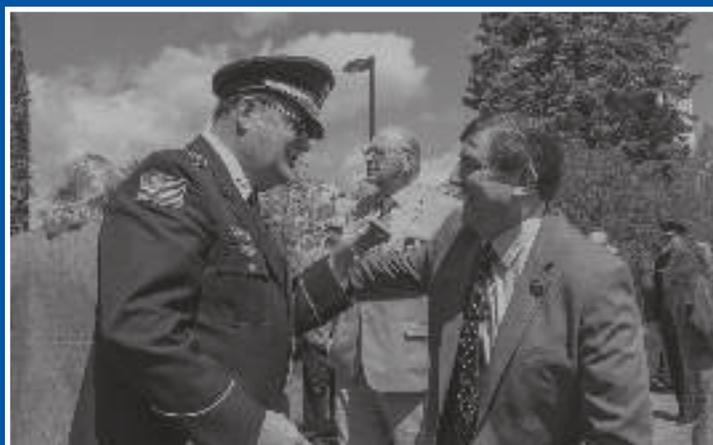
We increased the Homestead Exemption Program to \$25,000 — a \$5,000 increase from the previous year. This means Maine homeowners can take \$25,000 off the value of their home when calculating their property tax bill.

We began restoring revenue sharing, which means municipalities will have more funds to help stabilize property tax rates and fund essential services.

In addition, we added \$111 million in education funding,

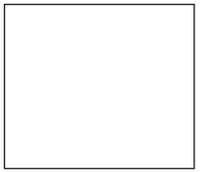
which will reduce the amount of school funding raised through property taxes. We also passed a law that provides a direct refund of \$100 to those who qualify for the Homestead Exemption.

Reducing property taxes is the number one concern for many families. I'm pleased we were able to make sure more of your money stays in your wallet.



Caribou Police Chief Michael Gahagan is a staple in our community. I am proud to stand by his side. As our friends, family, and neighbors, our law enforcement officials fight to make our communities better every day.

2019 Legislative Update
Senate President
Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
www.mainesenate.org
(207) 287-1500



SURVEY: Your voice and your ideas matter!

1. What should be our biggest priority next year?

- Making health care more affordable
 - Improving our economy
 - Supporting education, especially career tech
 - Protecting Maine's natural resources
 - Investing in good-paying, green energy jobs
 - Other (please specify)
-

2. What do you think Maine needs to do to create more jobs and strengthen our economy?

- Invest in career and technical education
 - Support companies to create good-paying jobs
 - Support new emerging industries
 - Retain and grow manufacturing jobs
 - Other (please specify)
-

3. What is the biggest challenge you and your family face when it comes to health care?

- Cost of prescription drugs
- Cost of health care coverage
- Lack of transparency and accountability
- Lack of medical professionals in our area

Other (please specify)

4. What do you think presents the largest challenge for education in Maine?

- Student debt
 - Inadequate funding for public schools
 - Inadequate funding for career tech
 - Lack of support for teachers
 - Other (please specify)
-

5. Which of the bills we passed this year was most important to you or your family? If none, do you have any bill ideas for next year?

Thanks for your feedback. Please reach out if you ever need assistance.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please visit mainesenate.org to sign up for my email updates.