



Senator Ned CLAXTON

DISTRICT 20

Proudly representing Auburn, Mechanic Falls, Minot,
New Gloucester and Poland

Dear Friend,

After working for years as a family physician, I came to Augusta to represent the same hardworking families, children and seniors I cared for throughout my career. I know my neighbors want their elected officials to get real things done, not pick political fights. Bringing back respect and civility to Augusta was long overdue. This session, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate sat beside each other instead of being divided by a partisan aisle. My seatmate was Senator Marianne Moore, a Republican from Calais, who is also serving her first term in the Maine Senate.

“Friendship helps to break down partisan barriers that only stand to hurt the people of Maine.”

Senator Moore and I became fast friends while learning the ropes of the Senate. In my opinion, friendship helps to break down partisan barriers that only stand to hurt the people of Maine. It was good to refocus Augusta on supporting working people, investing in small businesses, laying the groundwork for the success of our children, and helping Maine’s aging population.

Now that the first year of our work has come to a close, I’m proud of what we were able to accomplish for the people of Maine.

- **We passed a budget that provides \$130 million in property tax relief without raising taxes.** We expanded the Property Tax Fairness Credit, increased the Homestead Exemption and made significant steps toward fully restoring revenue sharing. This means more Mainers can afford to stay in their homes and make ends meet.
- **We fought to make health care more affordable and more accessible.** We passed laws to prevent insurance companies from discriminating against Mainers with preexisting conditions.
- **We stood up to “Big Pharma” by passing our sweeping prescription drug reform package.** This suite of laws will make prescription drugs more affordable and more accessible while increasing price transparency and holding drug companies accountable.

These are just the highlights. Looking back at this year, I believe we did a lot of good work to make Maine a better place to live, work, raise a family and eventually retire. But I know there is still a lot of work left to do. I promise to keep fighting for your health, family, job and wallet in Augusta next year.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me about the issues that matter to you. Thank you all for your input. It’s an honor to serve you in Augusta.

Ned Claxton

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The high cost of prescription drugs is something I hear about a lot when I hold local office hours. Here I am with constituents in New Gloucester.

Beating “Big Pharma”

As a long-time family physician, I saw patients and others I cared about struggle to afford their medicine. It was painful. I knew something had to change long before I came to serve in Augusta.

That’s why this year, I was glad to join my colleagues to support a suite of prescription drug reform bills, which earned unanimous, bipartisan support in the Senate.

These new laws will help more Mainers afford the medicine they need, increase price transparency and hold corporate middlemen accountable. The first law allows Maine to wholesale import prescription drugs from Canada, which are both safe and more affordable. The second law creates a Prescription Drug Affordability Board that will give consumers a voice in drug pricing, curb public spending and help drive down costs. The third law holds corporate middlemen accountable. Too many have pocketed savings designed for consumers. The final piece of this puzzle requires drug companies to share information on costs.

When we had the opportunity to stand up to big drug companies, we stood with everyday Mainers and put the people first. This year, we kept our promise to make a real difference for people.



I was proud to work with Sen. Bill Diamond to protect the safety of law enforcement officers and promote safe driving.

Fighting for affordable health care

Access to quality affordable health care is about giving you the freedom to have control over your health, your life, and your future.

From the start of this session, making health care more affordable and accessible for all Mainers has been my top priority. We’ve passed legislation to protect anyone with preexisting conditions and preserve the patient protections in the Affordable Care Act, such as coverage for hospitalization, ambulance services and maternity care. We put strict limits on short-term health plans, also known as “junk” plans, which trick folks into buying faulty coverage.

As your State Senator, I will continue fighting for affordable, accessible health care.



Sen. Susan Deschambault, D-Biddeford, and Sen. Marianne Moore, R-Calais, are my seatmates in the Senate. We have become fast friends.

Supporting rural hospitals, clinics and ambulances

As a retired doctor, I know our health care system is important for not just our health, but also our economy. It’s why we successfully fought for legislation to secure critical funding for our rural hospitals that are struggling to pay the bills.

We also passed legislation to require insurance companies to cover telehealth services the same way they cover traditional health care services. Although it can seem unusual, this technology allows people in rural areas to more easily access health care services.

It’s obvious that we need to make sure Mainers have access to health care no matter where they live. Whether it’s fighting for proper funding, or ensuring everyone can benefit from new technologies, I will continue to make sure you all have access to the care you need, no matter where you live or how much money you make.

“I’m not surprised by his active leadership given his long track record of commitment to the wellbeing of our communities. Ned truly cares about Maine people and the needs of his constituents.”

**-Shawn Rice,
Head of Arts Department,
Edward Little High School**



One of the best parts of this job is getting the chance to welcome constituents to the State House. Here I am with Shawn Rice, the 2019 Androscoggin County Teacher of the Year, and his mom.

Standing up for Maine veterans

Our veterans have sacrificed a lot to keep us safe. While we can never fully repay them, we can ease their transition back home.

This year, we passed laws to allow moose lottery winners to donate their permit to a disabled veteran and to provide complementary hunting, fishing and trapping licenses to our Gold Star Families.

Many servicemen and women return home in need of physical or mental health treatment for service-related injuries. It’s why we passed a bill this session to create veteran-friendly workplaces in Maine. This law ensures veterans can take time off for medical appointments.

Finally, we took action to reduce veteran homelessness by passing a bill to support local organizations working in their communities to give veterans the tools they need to get back on their feet.

We still have work to do next year: from expanding the veteran property tax exemption program, to supporting female veterans, to providing Gold Star Families free entry to our state parks, camping areas and beaches.

Have no doubt that our veterans are at the top of my mind as your State Senator. I will continue to support and advocate for them at any and all opportunities.

Keeping our promise on property tax relief

Mainers need property tax relief. It’s why lowering property taxes was one of my top priorities this session. And I’m proud to report that we delivered.

Lawmakers crafted and passed a strong, bipartisan budget that provides \$130 million in property tax relief for hardworking Mainers, seniors, families, 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 and eligible working Mainers and families can save up to \$750 on property taxes or rent.

We increased the Homestead Exemption 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. Outside of the budget, 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 community members, and I’m pleased we were able to make sure more of your money stays in your wallet.



I love getting out to the Auburn Farmers Market, enjoying the local produce and having great conversations!

2019 Legislative Update
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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)
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2. What do you think Maine needs to do to 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)
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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)
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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.