



Senator LOUIE LUCHINI

DISTRICT 7

Proudly representing the people of Hancock County

Dear Friend,

I serve in the Senate to advocate for policies that improve the lives of people across Hancock County. This session, Democrats and Republicans sat beside each other instead of being divided by a partisan aisle. It was time to refocus Augusta on supporting working people, investing in small businesses and laying the groundwork for the success of our children.

“It’s an honor to represent our communities in the Maine Senate and work on policies that will help people across Hancock County.”

I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished so far.

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 folks will be able 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 folks with preexisting conditions. We also expanded

Medicaid and supported rural hospitals and ambulance services.

We stood up to “Big Pharma” by passing a sweeping prescription drug reform package that received unanimous support in the Senate. This suite of laws will make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible by holding drug companies accountable and increasing transparency.

These are just the highlights.

I believe we have done a lot of good work to make Maine a better place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

But I know we still have a lot left to do. In Augusta next year, I will continue the fight to expand health care coverage, grow our economy, improve our schools and ensure a promising future for our kids.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me about the issues that matter most to you.

It’s an honor to serve you in Augusta.

Sincerely,

P.S. To sign up for my regular email updates, please visit www.mainesenate.org.

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Happy to welcome Major General Douglas Farnham to the Senate

Standing up for Maine veterans

Veterans have sacrificed so much to keep us safe. While we can never fully repay them, we can ease their transition back home.

As chair of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, I know that many servicemen and women return in need of physical or mental health treatment for service-related injuries. That's why we passed a bill to create veteran-friendly workplaces in Maine.

We also took action to reduce veteran homelessness by passing a bill to support local organizations working in our communities to give veterans the tools they need to get back on their feet. **I also sponsored a successful bill this session that supports housing for Maine veterans.**

Investing in good-paying green energy jobs

Renewable energy presents an exciting opportunity to create jobs, expand our economy and protect the environment. That's why we passed laws to invest in local clean energy projects, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, stabilize energy costs and support good-paying green energy jobs.

One new law strengthens Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard by increasing the proportion of electricity sold in Maine that comes from renewable sources, **setting the goal of reaching 100 percent use of renewable sources by 2050.** Another law will incentivize more solar power projects in Maine and make it easier to move forward with them.

We also passed a new law establishing the goal of installing 100,000 heat pumps in Maine by 2025, and another law that will **boost Maine's workforce training efforts in the renewable energy sector, support energy conservation and solar energy generation at Maine schools,** in order to lower the energy burden on school districts.

Delivering on prescription drug relief

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 on the backs of hardworking people. **This year, I joined my colleagues to support a suite of prescription drug reform bills, which earned unanimous, bipartisan support in the Senate.**

The first allows Maine to wholesale import prescription drugs from Canada, which are both safe and more affordable.

The second 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 holds accountable corporations, acting as middlemen, that have pocketed savings designed for consumers.

The final piece of this puzzle is a new law that requires drug companies to share information on costs related to drug production, marketing, advertising and consumer price.



Working with fellow lawmakers and park officials to address the maintenance backlog at Acadia National Park

Improving internet access and online privacy

These days, more and more things are done online. For many students and local businesses, being able to connect to high-speed internet is vital to their success.

That's why **our bipartisan budget allocates \$4 million to fund broadband and related rural development projects.** We also passed the nation's strongest online privacy law, so internet service providers can't secretly profit off your personal data.

We passed a "net neutrality" law for a free and open internet, **ensuring that Maine's small businesses can compete on a level playing field with big companies online.** Finally, we passed a law to keep spammers and scammers from making robocalls to Maine residents.



Collaborating with teachers and students from Ellsworth High School to promote Holocaust education



In the Senate Chamber, ready to work

Fighting for affordable health care

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

But our work didn't end there.

As a lifelong resident of rural Maine, I know our health care system is broken. It's why **I successfully fought for legislation to secure critical funding for our rural hospitals — including Northern Light Maine Coast Hospital in Ellsworth, Blue Hill Memorial Hospital and Mount Desert Island Hospital — because I know your zip code shouldn't determine your access to health care.**

This year, we also took action to eliminate the red tape from insurance companies to ensure that decisions about coverage and care are made by medical professionals with relevant expertise, instead of company bureaucrats.

Finally, the **Legislature funded and implemented Medicaid expansion**, which was approved by Maine voters in 2017.

Keeping our promise on property tax relief

This session, 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 people, and I'm pleased we were able to make sure more of your money stays in your wallet.



Meeting with Mt. Desert Island High School students

2019 Legislative Update
Senator Louie Luchini
3 State House Station
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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.