



Senator Dave MIRAMANT

DISTRICT 12

Proudly representing the people of Knox County

Dear Friend,

I serve in the Senate to work for change that will improve the lives of folks across Maine. This session, the climate in Augusta dramatically improved. Democrats and Republicans in the Senate sat beside each other instead of being divided by a partisan aisle. It was time for Augusta to refocus on supporting working folks, investing in small businesses and ensuring the success of our kids. Now that the first year of our work has come to a close, I'm proud of what we accomplished for our communities.

“ I approach every decision by listening to all sides, studying the issue closely, and ultimately deciding what I believe is in the best interests of the folks I represent. ”

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

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, expand Medicaid and support rural hospitals and ambulance services.

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 will help folks stay in their homes and make ends meet.

These are just the highlights. Looking back, we made significant strides to make Maine a better place to call home, raise a family and eventually retire. But I know there is still much work left to be done. In Augusta next year, I will continue the work to expand health care coverage, improve our schools and ensure a promising future for our kids.

While we may not always agree, I approach every decision by listening to all sides, studying the issue closely and ultimately deciding what I believe is in the best interests of the folks I represent and all Maine people. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you all for your input. It's an honor to serve you in Augusta.

Sincerely,

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Getting money out of Maine politics

It's no secret, big money can have too big an influence in elections and politics. **In Maine, we're making sure elected leaders are ethical and can't make shady deals.** Lawmakers are in Augusta to serve the people, not the donors.

This year, I supported a campaign finance reform package to hold lawmakers accountable. One new law prevents lawmakers and candidates from profiting off political contributions by loaning money from political action committees (PACs) to their private businesses. Another new law extends the waiting period before lawmakers can become lobbyists.



Testifying in the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Fighting for equal treatment for All Mainers

All Mainers — regardless of who you are or where you're from — deserve fair treatment. Folks deserve equal pay for equal work. That's why we passed a law to ensure one act of pay discrimination won't hurt a worker through their entire career. This will help more Maine workers achieve financial stability.

We also made sure references to the Governor and Maine Supreme Court Justices are gender-neutral in official documents. And we started the work needed to remove the "luxury tax" from feminine hygiene products. These changes are key steps toward achieving real equality.

As we reflect on 100 years of women's suffrage, it's wonderful to celebrate how far we've come, while looking ahead to the work we still have to accomplish.

It's more important than ever that our Constitution clearly states that all people should be treated the same, regardless of their gender. **That's why I voted for an Equal Rights Amendment for Maine, and I'm proud to say the Senate gave bipartisan, two-thirds support to this bill.** When we come back next year, the House will have another chance to pass this important legislation.

Protecting Maine's natural resources

From working waterfronts to forest and agricultural products, Maine's natural resources contribute billions to our economy annually. This session, I worked hard to keep it that way.

As chair of the Marine Resources Committee, I took action to protect the water quality of our rivers and the Gulf of Maine, and supported efforts to continue restoring the Penobscot River and protect sustenance fishing rights of Maine tribes. **These measures will help ensure the long-term health of our inland fishing and marine resources.**

I proudly supported the bipartisan bill to create the Governor's Climate Council, which will lead efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050 and encourage good-paying green energy jobs.

To reduce pollution, **I backed laws to ban single-use plastic bags, Styrofoam products, and toxic chemicals that can lead to an increased risk of cancer and other health problems.** These laws will protect our natural resources for future generations.

Expanding internet access and protecting privacy

These days, we do more and more online, from banking to health care to shopping. For many students and local businesses, being able to connect to high-speed internet is vital to their success. That's why **our budget allocates \$4 million to fund broadband and related rural development projects.** We also passed the nation's strongest online privacy law. Your internet service provider shouldn't be able to 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 residential numbers,** which have made many Mainers, including me, hesitant to answer their phone when it rings.



Standing with Sen. Eloise Vitelli and Rep. Lois Reckitt, sponsors of the Equal Rights Amendment

“One of the things I appreciate most about Dave is his support of education. He always takes the time to discuss how the state’s policies really impact teachers in the classroom.”

- Tom Gray, Knox County Teacher of the Year



Union Founders Day pie social in Union Common

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 corporate middlemen are making outrageous profits on the backs of hardworking people. It doesn’t have to be that way. This year, I joined my colleagues to support a suite of prescription drug reform bills, which earned unanimous, bipartisan approval in the Senate. **These new laws will make medicine more affordable and more accessible, 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 certain corporations accountable — companies that act as middlemen, but have pocketed savings designed for consumers.

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

Mainers have watched the cost of prescription drugs skyrocket because lawmakers were too afraid to act. This year, we took on “Big Pharma,” and we won.

Keeping our promise on property tax relief

Mainers need property tax relief. It’s why lowering property taxes has remained at the top of our agenda for years. In 2017, we increased the Homestead Exemption. 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 folks.

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 folks, and I’m pleased we were able to make sure more of your money stays in your wallet.



Working on cars with Charles Howard and Mike Weed of Union

2019 Legislative Update
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This portrait of Ed Muskie bears the following quote, which rings even truer today: "There are only two kinds of politics ... the politics of fear and the politics of trust."

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.