Facts & Figures

3,162
Number of jobs that will be created by proposed bond investment[1]

$75.7 million
Amount of bond investment voters will consider on Nov. 6[2]

$150.2 million
Amount of federal and public and private funds Maine will receive in matching dollars for bond investment[2]

$4.98
Additional economic activity generated per dollar of investment by the state of Maine associated with proposed bonds[1]

$845/$1,117
Tax-supported debt per Maine resident/national average[3]

2.3%/2.8%
Tax-supported debt as a percentage of Maine personal income/national median[4]

$299
Amount each Maine car owner spends annually on vehicle wear and tear because of poor road conditions[5]

$11
Dollars added to the Maine economy for every $1 spent on land conservation[6]

50%
Percentage of Mainers who get their drinking water from public water systems[7]

Bonds Will Add Over 3,100 Jobs
MECEP analysis shows economic benefits of voting "Yes" on questions 2, 3, 4, and 5

Voting in favor of four bond questions on November 6, 2012, will create over 3,100 jobs and generate $377 million in economic activity, an analysis by the Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP) shows.

The bonds will generate $75.7 million in direct investment by the state of Maine and generate $150 million more from other public and private sources. The economic benefits will be long lasting, resulting in better highways; a workforce better prepared for high-demand jobs; more land set aside for family farms, forestry and tourism; and larger and safer public water systems.

Bond Funds Will Create Jobs and Generate Economic Activity

Table 1: Economic Impact of Four Bond Questions[1]

	Direct Effects	Multiplier Effects	Total Impact
Economic Output	$224,350,000	$152,920,541	$377,270,541
Employment	1,773	1,389	3,162
Wages	$73,503,060	$56,376,349	$128,879,409

Every dollar the state invests will generate an additional $4.98 in economic activity, according to MECEP's analysis, which relies on a model commonly used by economic development professionals to assess the impact of investments. For example, bond funds pay the salaries of construction workers repairing Maine's roads and bridges. Those workers, in turn, spend money at local businesses on food, clothing, and other items. This spending ripples through the economy. That is why economists stress that targeted investments in roads, water systems, and other infrastructure deliver more bang for the buck than tax cuts for the wealthy.[8]

The bottom line is that these bonds have the potential to create jobs when they are most needed. With more than 50,000 Mainers unemployed, these jobs will put our friends, neighbors, and family members back to work.

Now Is the Time to Invest

With interest rates at historic lows, the case for these bonds – which are sold to investors who are paid back, with interest, by the state – is even stronger. Maine's credit rating is good, which also holds down our borrowing costs. We have a proven record of prudent debt management. If we delay these important investments, the cost of repairing Maine's failing infrastructure will likely increase, along with our borrowing costs.

Voter approval of the four ballot questions will:

- Prevent further decay of Maine's roads, bridges and other transportation needs.
- Save Maine's family farms, fishing communities, and forest and forest products jobs.
- Prepare Maine workers for high-demand jobs.
- Enhance water quality, protect public health, and preserve quality of life.

Question 2: Education Bond

Amount: $11.3 million   **Private/Public Match**: $0   **Total**: $11.3 million

Economic Benefit:

The Maine Community College System will add equipment and laboratory space to expand training for Maine's workforce to fill high-demand jobs in machine tool and precision manufacturing, health care and nursing, hospitality and culinary arts, and computer drafting. In addition, a biosafety lab at the University of Maine will enhance Maine's response to outbreaks of foodborne illnesses and plant and animal disease such as e. coli, salmonella, and avian flu and reduce the costs of medical treatment and lost livestock and crops.

Question 3: Land for Maine's Future Bond

Amount: $5 million   **Private/Public Match**: $5 million   **Total**: $10 million

Economic Benefit:

Land for Maine's Future will use the bond funds to acquire land and easements to keep farms and other working lands productive and to retain public access to our woods and waters. Land conservation protects the livelihoods of Maine's fishing communities, family farms, tourism operators, and forest and wood products industries by preserving the land from which they earn their living. It also ensures public access for hunting, hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling. Mainers have a deep and abiding connection to the land we are losing to development and private ownership.

Question 4: Highway Bond

Amount: $51.5 million   **Private/Public Match**: $105.6 million   **Total**: $157.1 million

Economic Benefit:

One-third of Maine's roads are in poor or mediocre condition, causing accidents, vehicle wear and tear, and lost commerce. As a result, Maine motorists spend $301 million annually on tire wear, increased fuel use, repair costs, and accelerated vehicle depreciation. Of the 169 highway accident fatalities in Maine each year, one-third — 56 deaths — can be attributed to poor road conditions, such as narrow lanes and shoulders, unsafe intersections and lack of guardrails and medians. Trucks carry 81% of the goods shipped annually from Maine.[5] Congestion and delays cost money. To be competitive, Maine needs a smoother, more efficient, and more modern transportation system.

Question 5: Water Quality Bond

Amount: $7.9 million   **Private/Public Match**: $39.6 million   **Total**: $47.5 million

Economic Benefit:

We need and want clean drinking water. Maine's public drinking water and treatment systems are old and decaying. This bond will pay for upgrades and repairs to public wells and wastewater treatment plants in Bangor, Portland, Camden, Rockland, Hampden, Eastport, Presque Isle, Bucksport, Caribou and Calais, St. Agatha, Mechanic Falls, Fairfield, Sanford, Wiscasset, Pittsfield, Brunswick, Castine, Limestone and Oxford.

Endnotes:

[1] MECEP estimated direct employment and labor income figures, and multiplier effects using the Maine IMPLAN model developed by MIG, Inc.

[2] Maine Department of Secretary of State, Maine Citizen's Guide to the Referendum Election, November, 2012.

[3] Maine State Treasurer.

[4] Moody's Investors Service, May 2012.

[5] TRIP. Maine Transportation by the Numbers: Meeting the State's Need for Safety and Efficient Mobility, October 2012.

[6] Trust for Public Land. Return on the Investment in Land for Maine's Future, February 2012.

[7] Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Environmental Health, Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention, Drinking Water Program.

[8] Mark Zandi, "At Last, the U.S. Begins a Serious Fiscal Debate," April 14, 2011, at http://www.economy.com/dismal/article_free.asp?cid=198972&src=msnbc and Congressional Budget Office. Estimated Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on Employment and Economic Output from January 2012 Through March 2012, May 2012.