

Let's Get Fiscal: Tax and Budget Conference

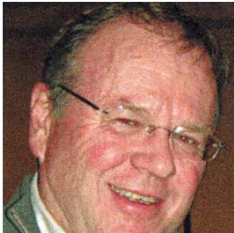
Speaker Bios



Claire Berkowitz is the executive director of the [Maine Children's Alliance](#) where she served as the KIDS COUNT Director for five years. She was the executive director of the Bath Youth Meetinghouse & Skatepark (The Park), a nonprofit that serves as a safe haven and recreation center for youth in Bath. Clair holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Mary Washington and a master's in psychology from Shippensburg University.



Ed Cervone is director of [Educate Maine](#), a business-led organization that champions college and career readiness and increased education attainment in Maine. Ed previously served as director of operations at Denver Preschool Program in Denver, Colorado, president and CEO of Maine Development Foundation and an economic policy analyst at Maine Center for Economic Policy.



Greg Dore has been Skowhegan's road commissioner since 1992 and leads a staff of 10 with a \$1.25 million annual maintenance budget. A long-term member of the board of the [Maine Better Transportation Association](#), he served as president from 2008-2009. He is also a member and past president of the Maine chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and winner of a 2007 APWA Excellence Award.



Karen Heck is currently a senior program officer for the [Bingham Program](#), a philanthropy investing in the health of Maine people. For 25 years, she has worked both locally and statewide for a variety of causes and countless programs including co-founding Hardy Girls Healthy Women, Inc. Karen is a member of the Maine Center for Economic Policy board of directors and recently completed three years as Waterville's mayor.



Joel Johnson is the economist at the [Maine Center for Economic Policy \(MECEP\)](#). He worked previously as an economist at the Maine State Planning Office. He has a master's in resource economics and policy from the University of Maine, where he specialized in econometric and statistical analysis. Joel now serves on the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission and is a Registered Maine Guide.



John Kosinski is director of government relations at the [Maine Education Association](#) (MEA). He was born in Delaware and thanks to the public schools received a top-notch education. Before joining the MEA, he spent 10 years working for labor organizations in California. He was the political director for one of the largest unions in California before becoming the government relations director for the Writers Guild of America-West. He lives in Brunswick with his talented wife, Sarah and their three children.



Michael Leachman is director of state fiscal research with the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) where he has researched a range of state fiscal policy issues including the impact of federal aid, the debt states owe in their Unemployment Insurance trust funds, and the wisdom of state spending limits. Michael was a policy analyst for nine years at the Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCPP). He has a Ph.D. in sociology from Loyola University Chicago.



Garrett Martin is executive director of the [Maine Center for Economic Policy \(MECEP\)](#). He worked as director of program strategy at the Maine Community Foundation and associate director at the Genesis Community Loan Fund. Garrett was selected as a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina and a Truman Scholar for graduate studies by the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation. He holds a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University.



Jessica Maurer is the executive director of the [Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging](#) where she advocates for healthy aging on behalf of Maine's five area agencies on aging. A licensed Maine attorney, Jessica worked for nearly 17 years in the Maine Office of the Attorney General. Jessica is a graduate of the University of Maine, School of Law and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



Robyn Merrill is the executive director of [Maine Equal Justice Partners \(MEJP\)](#), a public interest organization working to find solutions to poverty and improve the lives of people with low income in Maine. Robyn received her master's in social work from the University of New England and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maine, School of Law.



John Piotti is the president and CEO of [Maine Farmland Trust](#) and a member of the [Maine Center for Economic Policy](#) board of directors. He holds degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in engineering, public policy, and management. John also served in Maine's legislature, where he chaired the agriculture and taxation committees and later served as House Majority Leader.



Lisa Pohlmann is the executive director of the [Natural Resources Council of Maine](#), Maine's leading environmental advocacy organization, working statewide to protect Maine's woods, waters and wildlife. She formerly served as associate director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy, and focused on income security, health care, and sustainable development. She has a Ph.D. from the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine.



Becky Smith is Maine director of government relations, [American Heart Association/American Stroke Association \(AHA\)](#). Prior to joining AHA, Becky worked for the Maine Public Health Association/Health Policy Partners of Maine in various capacities and as an aide in the Maine Legislature. Becky received a B.A. in American Studies from Colby College.



Mary Anne Turowski is director of politics and legislation of the [Maine State Employees Association, Local 1989 of the Service Employees International Union \(MSEA-SEIU\)](#). A past president of MSEA-SEIU, Mary Anne manages and leads MSEA's lobbying, electoral and member mobilization program. She recruits, trains and coordinates the work of member volunteers and staff.