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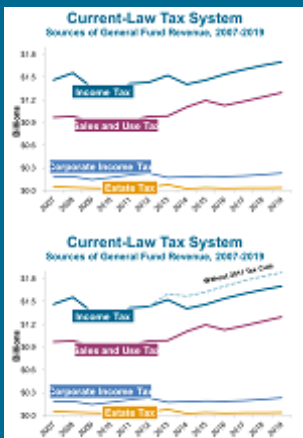
Quote

"It would be far better for our state if the governors were to use their joint appearance to announce that Gov. LePage will follow Gov. Kasich's example and accept federal health care funds. Not only would that help more than 60,000 Mainers get affordable health care, it would provide an immediate and significant boost to Maine's economy . . ."

Garrett Martin to Maine and Ohio's governors who called for a constitutional convention at a March 26, 2015 State House press conference.

Facts & Figures

Analyzing Gov. LePage's Tax Reform Proposal



Dear MECEP Friend,

The snow banks are slowly receding but ice persists on Maine's lakes and rivers. March came in like a lion and many of us are asking "where's the lamb?"



At MECEP, we've been busy analyzing Gov. LePage's proposed budget and tax cuts and providing testimony to legislative committees holding hearings on bills covering a broad array of topics. Our 2014 Tax and Budget Conference may be a successful memory, but materials and presentations from it remain available.

MECEP Leads the Charge Opposing Constitutional Convention/Balanced Budget Amendment



"The proposed constitutional convention is an unprecedented, radical political gambit that threatens our Constitution and the protections it affords to Americans' most fundamental rights."

MECEP executive director Garrett Martin
March 26, 2015

[Maine Center for Economic Policy | mecep.org](#)

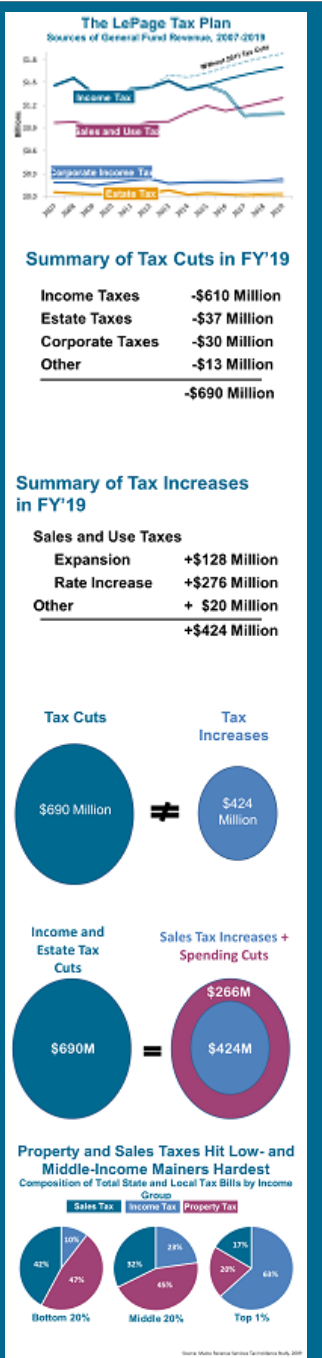
On March 26, Ohio Gov. John Kasich joined Maine Gov. Paul LePage at a State House media event calling for a constitutional convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. MECEP executive director Garrett Martin called the proposal an "unprecedented" threat to the "constitutional system that has preserved our rights and liberties."

The governors said their intention is to use the convention to advance a balanced budget amendment. "Such an amendment would have disastrous consequences for the economic security of all Americans," Martin said. "It would lengthen and deepen recessions, making them more painful by requiring deeper budget cuts or higher tax increases when the economy most needs government to invest in job creation and provide critical support to the unemployed as they seek new jobs."

To read MECEP's response to the governors' press event, [click here](#).

To read a **Bangor Daily News** article about the governors' event, [click here](#). To listen to Maine Public Broadcasting Network's coverage of the event, [click here](#).

Did You Miss MECEP's 2015 Tax and Budget Conference?



Source: [Economist Joel Johnson's presentation at MECEP's 2015 Tax and Budget Conference](#)

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Natural Resources Council of Maine executive director Lisa Pohlman was among the presenters at MECEP's 2015 Tax and Budget Conference

More than 80 policymakers, advocates, and concerned citizens joined us on February 13th at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell for our 2015 Tax and Budget Conference. If you were unable to join us, it's not too late to catch up on the day's program. For more about the presentations, [click here](#).



Let's Get Fiscal 2015 Tax and Budget Conference

MECEP Testimony Informs State House Deliberations



Economist Joel Johnson testifying on the minimum wage, 3/24/15

As legislative committees pick up the pace with scores of hearings weekly on pending legislation, MECEP is there with testimony and supporting data and analysis.

[In Support of LD 501, An Act to Amend the Estate Tax Laws](#) (Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, March 30, 2015)

[In Support of LD 575: An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief to Maine's Working Families](#) (Joint Committee on Taxation, March 30, 2015))

[In Support of LD 843, An Act to Raise the Minimum Wage and Index It to the National Average Wage](#) (Joint Standing Committee Labor, Commerce, Research, and Economic Development, March 23, 2015)

[In Support of LD 380, Resolve, To Establish a Working Group to Aid with the End of Student Hunger](#) (Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. March 19, 2015)

[In Support of LD 341, An Act To Prevent Tax Haven Abuse](#) (Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, March 9, 2015)

[In Opposition to Proposed Cuts to Early Child Care and Education](#) (Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and on Health and Human Services, March 9, 2015)

[In Support of LD 455, An Act To Prohibit Deceptive Practices Regarding Unsolicited Loans](#) (Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, March 9, 2015)

[In Opposition to Income and Estate Tax Cuts in the Governor's Biennial Budget Proposal](#) (Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and on Taxation, February 17, 2015)

[In Opposition to Gov. LePage's Federal Tax Conformity Proposal \(LD 138\)](#) (Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and on Taxation, January 29, 2015)

MECEP Blogposts



MECEP's staff often use blog posts to expand upon legislative testimony, to respond to statements or actions by the governor and legislators, or to provide data and analysis on issues in the media spotlight. With the legislature at full throttle in the State House March 2015 has provided fodder for a bumper crop of MECEP blog posts.

[Maine legislators must reject the Governor's call for a Constitutional Convention](#) (March 26, 2015)

[Low-income Maine residents would benefit from Governor LePage's proposed sales tax fairness credit](#) (March 25, 2015)

[Labor Department's minimum wage testimony misses the mark](#) (March 24, 2015)

[The only surprise in Maine's labor force participation decline is why it took so long to happen](#) (March 19, 2015)

[A paperwork obstacle is denying Maine kids healthy, nutritious school meals](#) (March 19, 2015)

[Many non-resident estates would benefit from Governor LePage's proposed estate tax repeal](#) (March 18, 2015)

[Federal grants now available for local food initiatives](#) (March 17, 2015)

[Health coverage for thousands of working Mainers at risk in Supreme Court case](#) (March 16, 2015)

[Mainers dislike payday lenders](#) (March 11, 2015)

[Higher Education Cuts Jeopardize Students' and Maine's Economic Future](#) (March 9, 2015)

[Cutting Taxes on Pensions Won't Keep Retirees from Moving to Other States](#) (March 4, 2015)

[Maine's community colleges blaze the trail to prosperity for aspiring Maine workers](#) (March 3, 2015)

MECEP in the News



WCSH-TV's Don Carrigan interviews economist Joel Johnson about MECEP's testimony on Gov. LePage's proposed tax cuts

MECEP has been busy in recent weeks, responding to media inquiries about the governor's proposed budget- especially the sweeping changes he wants to make to Maine's tax code.

[Interview about restoring Maine's estate tax exemption to \\$1 million](#) (WVOM-AM/FM George Hale Ric Tyler Show, March 31, 2015)

[Ohio Gov. Kasich, LePage team up to push US balanced budget amendment](#) (**Bangor Daily News**, March 27, 2015)

[Ohio Governor in Maine to Tout Controversial Path to Balanced Federal Budget](#) (Maine Public Broadcasting Network, March 26, 2015)

[Interview about minimum wage increase](#) (WVOM-AM/FM George Hale Ric Tyler Show, March 24, 2015)

[Interview about funding for Maine's community colleges](#) (WZON-AM *The Morning Pulse Program*, March 16, 2015)

[How Should Mainers Be Taxed?](#) (Maine Public Broadcasting Network *Maine Calling*, March 11, 2015)

[Interview about LD 341, legislation to plug the corporate tax haven loophole](#) (WZON-AM *The Pulse Morning Program*, March 10, 2015)

[Making Maine Work](#) (Maine Public Broadcasting Network *Maine Calling*, February 25, 2015)

[Public hearings begin on Gov. LePage's budget](#) (WCSH-TV/WLBZ-TV, February 17, 2015)

[As Politicians Resist Health Reform, Maine People Sign Up - Especially in Coastal and Rural Communities](#) (Scholars Strategy Network, February 17, 2015)

[Interview about Gov. LePage's proposed budget](#) (WGAN-AM *Morning News with Ken Altshuler and Mike Violette*, February 2, 2015)

Be sure to keep up with MECEP on social media: "like" us and "share" our posts with your friends on [Facebook, \(click here\)](#) and "follow" us on [Twitter, \(click here\)](#). And read the latest posts to [MECEP's blog \(click here\)](#) for more detailed information on our ongoing research and analysis of issues in the news.

Sincerely,

Mark Sullivan
Maine Center for Economic Policy