



Press Release
Monday, February 6, 2017

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New Report: More Than Half of All Maine Homeowners Will See Property Tax Increases Under Governor's Budget Plan

On the day lawmakers initiate public hearings on governor's budget, MECEP releases new town-by-town data showing many Mainers will pay more in property taxes and joins opponents in speaking against governor's budget

Augusta, Maine (Monday, February 6, 2017) More than 210,000 households would pay \$313 more in property taxes on average if Governor LePage's budget passes, according to Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP) analysis of data from Maine Revenue Services.

The issue brief, "[Governor's Proposed Cuts to Homestead Exemption Would Raise Property Taxes for Maine Homeowners](#)" notes that homeowners living in towns with high mil rates would experience the greatest property tax increases.

Property Tax Increase by Select Towns Due to Governor's Proposed Repeal of the Homestead Exemption for Homeowners Under Age 65

Town	Average Property Tax Increase	Number of Households Affected
Pownal	\$715	267
Millinocket	\$593	912
Washburn	\$570	334
Brunswick	\$567	3,053
Waterville	\$556	1,852

Rumford	\$549	949
Lewiston	\$547	4,259

To see MECEP's issue brief including a complete town by town listing click [here](#). For an interactive map with above data mapped for all towns click [here](#).

The governor's proposal to repeal the homestead exemption for Maine homeowners under the age of 65 is part of a larger budget plan that would ultimately raise taxes on households with income below \$92,000 while giving an average tax cut of approximately \$23,000 to the wealthiest 1% of Mainers.

Governor's Budget Includes an Upside Down Tax Plan that Would Raise Taxes on the Lower 80% of Maine Households

Group	Lowest 20%	Second 20%	Middle 20%	Fourth 20%	Next 15%	Next 4%	Top 1%
Income Range	Less than \$22K	\$22K to \$37K	\$37K to \$59K	\$59K to \$92K	\$92K to \$170K	\$170K to \$384K	\$384K or More
Average Income	\$14K	\$30K	\$48K	\$74K	\$118K	\$235K	\$876K
Average Tax Change	+\$60	+\$110	+\$90	+\$85	-\$240	-\$1,590	-\$22,665

"Maine people deserve to know what the governor's budget proposal means to them. Repeal of the homestead exemption for most Maine homeowners, combined with other tax changes in the governor's proposed budget, doesn't help pay for better communities or schools. Instead, the LePage tax plan takes money from poor and working class Mainers to pay for huge tax cuts for the rich," said Garrett Martin, executive director at MECEP.

"We need a real plan that doesn't just cut taxes for the wealthy and corporations while leaving everyone else holding the bag. Lawmakers should reject the governor's budget and work together to craft a budget that invests in a stronger workforce, helps young families succeed, builds modern infrastructure, provides services our communities rely on and addresses the priorities that benefit all Mainers now and in the future," Martin stated.

MEDIA AVAILABILITY TODAY

WHAT:

Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP) releases new analysis on the impact of the governor's proposal to repeal the homestead exemption for families under

age 65 and is joined by opponents of the governor's budget proposal to outline the ways in which the governor's proposed budget would hurt Maine families, schools, and communities

WHEN:

Monday, February 6th, 9:45 am

WHERE:

Welcome Center, State House, Augusta

WHO:

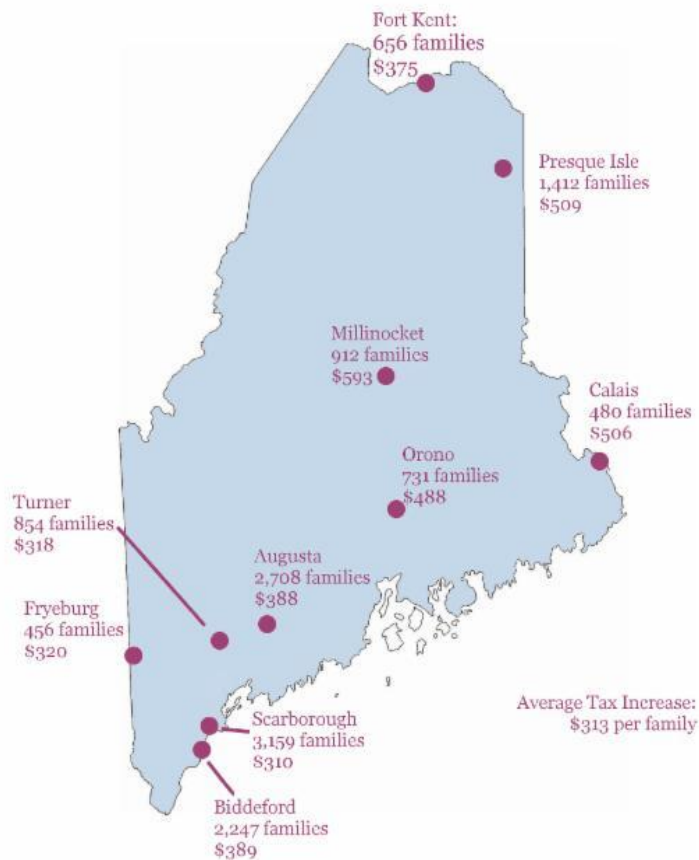
Sarah Austin, Policy Analyst, Maine Center for Economic Policy

Teresa Gillis, Brunswick School Board Member

John Kosinski, Yes on 2, Campaign Manager

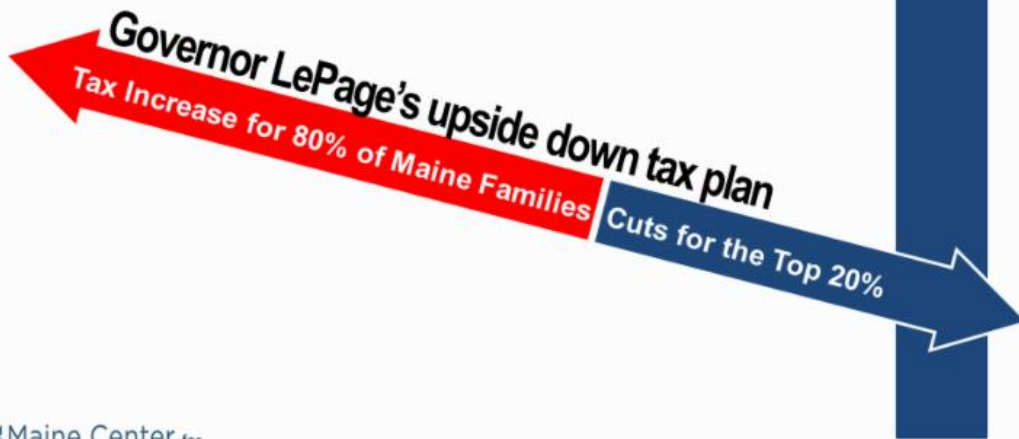
Summary Graphics

Property Taxes Will Increase for 200,000 Families
In Every Part of the State Under Governor's Budget



Source: MEC EP analysis of Maine Revenue Services data

Household Income						
Less than \$22K	\$22K-37K	\$37K-59K	\$59K-92K	\$92K-170K	\$170K-384K	\$384K+ (Top 1%)
+\$60	+\$110	+\$90	+\$85	-\$240	-\$1,590	-\$22,665



Source: MECEP analysis of data from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

About the Maine Center for Economic Policy

The Maine Center for Economic Policy provides citizens, policymakers, advocates, and media with credible and rigorous economic analysis that advances economic justice and prosperity for all Maine people.

To learn more about what we do, visit www.mecep.org.

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