



# Maine Municipal Association

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To: Key Municipal Officials  
From: MMA's State & Federal Relations Staff  
Date: July 26, 2018  
Re: Restoring the State/Municipal Partnership

With the November 6 election for the Office of the Governor and the Maine Legislature on the horizon, MMA's advocacy team is encouraging municipal officials to connect, meet and discuss issues of municipal importance with candidates for legislative office before they are elected. Our goal is to help municipal officials develop working relationships that can be maintained well after the election.

**Local Advocacy Toolkit.** To support that effort, MMA has put together the attached local advocacy toolkit, which includes a municipal issues paper, list of candidates running for office, and tips on how to plan a legislative event. ***Electronic versions of all the materials provided in this packet are posted on MMA's website at [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org).***

- *2018 Municipal Issues Paper.* The theme of this year's paper is restoring the state/municipal partnership and establishing a collaborative approach to policy development and the financing of important municipal services. The paper provides a historic overview of legislative mandates placed on municipalities since the establishment of Maine in 1820; calls on the legislature to deliver promised state funding for mandated municipal, school and county services; provides an overview of municipal revenues and expenses, showing that nearly two-thirds of all property tax revenue is used to fund school and county services; and seeks to restore the state/municipal partnership as a means of addressing future challenges. Please do not hesitate to make copies of the paper to share with staff, residents and candidates for office.
- *Candidates for Office.* Attached to this memo is contact information for all of the candidates running for the Maine Legislature. To make it easier to identify your community's candidates, a municipality-by-municipality Senate and House District index is also provided.
- *Event Planning.* The attached event planning timeline provides general tips on how to implement a local candidates' night. A sample invitation letter and press release are also included. These local meetings can be as formal or informal as you like. Asking candidates to meet with the board or council during a regularly scheduled meeting is also a good way to introduce the community to the candidate and provides an opportunity to discuss municipal issues of both statewide and local significance.

- *Partnership Facts.* A brief summary of the basis for restoring the state/municipal partnership is also attached. It may be useful in terms of orienting your messaging and getting conversations started.

**Regional Meetings.** MMA's advocacy staff is available to help municipal officials plan and implement regional candidates' nights. In order to make these efforts as effective and efficient as possible, we ask that these events include several communities, for example, the member communities from a regional association or all municipalities that encompass a Senate District. For more information on this process, please contact Kate Dufour at 1-800-452-8786 or at [kdufour@memun.org](mailto:kdufour@memun.org).

**2019-2020 Legislative Platform.** Next month the 2019-2020 Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) will be seated and tasked with putting together MMA's legislative platform for the upcoming session. If you have thoughts for legislation that you would like advanced to the LPC for possible inclusion in our platform, please contact Kate at the email or number listed above.

**Interviews with Gubernatorial Candidates.** Lastly, on June 27, the Association's Executive Committee conducted videotaped interviews with Alan Caron, Terry Hayes, Janet Mills, and Shawn Moody. All four interviews are posted on MMA's website at [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org). During the hour long sessions, candidates provided feedback on a variety of municipal issues, including the restoration of the municipal/state partnership, funding for important local programs, tax reform, and infrastructure funding, to name a few.

Thank you for your assistance with this important endeavor.