

MAINERS for TAX FAIRNESS

MainersForTaxFairness.org

LD 1089: An Act to Permanently Fund 55 Percent of the State's Share of Education by Establishing a Tax on Incomes of More than \$1,000,000

Maine's tax system is rigged. Right now, middle-class families pay a greater share of their income in taxes than the ultra-wealthy. That's backwards. This year, the Maine Legislature has a chance to fix it by raising taxes on the highest incomes — ensuring those who have the most contribute their fair share.

Taxing top incomes isn't just fair — it's smart. It generates the revenue Maine needs to strengthen schools, improve infrastructure, and expand critical care services. These are investments that benefit everyone, not just the wealthy few.

The Income Tax: The Most Fair, Effective Way to Fund Maine's Priorities

Unlike sales and property taxes — which hit families with low- and middle-income hardest — the income tax is based on ability to pay. It's also Maine's biggest source of state funding, meaning small increases on top earners can raise the money we need without burdening working families.

Millionaires Shouldn't Pay the Same Rate as Middle-Class Families

Right now, Maine's tax code treats someone earning \$61,600 the same as a millionaire. That's absurd. A CEO raking in \$1 million should pay a higher rate than a teacher or small business owner. Raising taxes on the top 1% will make Maine's tax system fairer and more equitable.

[LD 1089](#), sponsored by Rep. Golek and a great collection of cosponsors including the Speaker, would create a surcharge of 4% on income over one million dollars. The bill directs the funds that would come from this new surcharge (currently expected to be over \$100 million per year) to fund our schools. Adding this revenue stream would not only help guarantee funding for education, but also free up other funds to meet other unmet needs.

LePage's Tax Cuts Gutted Maine's Economy — It's Time to Reverse Course

Tax cuts for the wealthy under Gov. Paul LePage drained hundreds of millions from Maine's budget — forcing deep cuts to schools and local services while driving up property taxes for everyone else. Meanwhile, sales tax hikes shifted more costs onto working families.

Reversing these failed policies will restore fairness and reinvest in Maine's future. It's time to make the wealthy pay what they owe — just like the rest of us.

About Mainers for Tax Fairness

Mainers for Tax Fairness is a coalition dedicated to cleaning up Maine's tax code to fund investments to build thriving communities. The coalition represents teachers, health care providers, policy experts, workers, small business owners, advocates for children and families with low incomes, and other groups fighting to improve tax fairness and build a stronger, more inclusive economy for all Mainers. MainersForTaxFairness.org