Paul LePage Overview

Paul LePage is making life more expensive for everyday Mainers and making life harder for seniors.

Paul LePage Is Making Life More Expensive For Everyday Mainers And Making Life Harder For Seniors.

Backup below.

Paul LePage Message #1

Paul LePage's agenda is making life more expensive for everyday Mainers. As Governor, LePage's policies raised property taxes, energy bills, and healthcare costs for Maine families. Now LePage backs a foreign war sending gas prices and home heating costs soaring. LePage is "all for" tariffs that are costing the average family $2,500 a year and he backs massive healthcare cuts raising insurance premiums for millions of families.

Paul LePage's Agenda Is Making Life More Expensive For Everyday Mainers.

Backup below.

As Governor, LePage's Policies Raised Property Taxes, Energy Bills, And Healthcare Costs For Maine Families.

When LePage Was Governor, Mainers Paid An Average Of $30 Million More Per Year In Local Property Taxes

When LePage Was Governor, Mainers Paid An Average Of $30 Million More Per Year In Local Property Taxes. "Maine will have $864 million less in revenue to pay for vital commitments such as education and health care over the next two years than it would have had before Governor Paul LePage gave away income tax rewards tilted towards the wealthy. Meanwhile, half of the state's projected loss in revenue has been redistributed to the top one-fifth of Maine households. And compensating for shrinking state budgets, all Mainers — including low- and middle-income households — have had to shoulder more of the burden to fund schools and infrastructure, collectively paying an average of $30 million more per year in local property taxes from 2011 to 2016 than in the previous six-year period." [Maine Beacon, 9/13/18]

Maine Beacon: "Compensating For Shrinking State Budgets" Under LePage, "All Mainers — Including Low- And Middle-Income Households — Have Had To Shoulder More Of The Burden To Fund Schools And Infrastructure, Collectively Paying An Average Of $30 Million More Per Year In Local Property Taxes From 2011 To 2016." "Maine will have $864 million less in revenue to pay for vital commitments such as education and health care over the next two years than it would have had before Governor Paul LePage gave away income tax rewards tilted towards the wealthy. Meanwhile, half of the state's projected loss in revenue has been redistributed to the top one-fifth of Maine households. And compensating for shrinking state budgets, all Mainers — including low- and middle-income households — have had to shoulder more of the burden to fund schools and infrastructure, collectively paying an average of $30 million more per year in local property taxes from 2011 to 2016 than in the previous six-year period." [Maine Beacon, 9/13/18]

- **LePage Was Governor From 2011-2019.** "LePage became governor of Maine in 2011 and served until 2019. The New York Times described him as one of the 'most unfiltered politicians' pre-President Donald Trump; however, he prided himself on lowering taxes and cutting regulations while chief executive." [Maine Morning Star, 5/5/25]

Under LePage's Administration And Policies, Energy Prices Grew By 5 Percent And His Public Utilities Commission Enacted A Tariff On Electric Customers

2011-2017: Under LePage's Administration And Policies, Energy Prices Grew By 4.7 Percent. "When LePage signed the bills calling on his energy office and state agencies to focus on reducing power prices, the state ranked eighth in the country for residential power prices. This past April, Maine ranked ninth, with prices up 4.7 percent from six years earlier." [Bangor Daily News, 9/6/17]

LePage's Public Utilities Commission Ignored A Recommendation Against A Tariff On Electric Customers To Pay For New Gas Pipelines. "Gov. Paul LePage continues to push for expansion of natural gas infrastructure and supply, believing that this will lower energy costs for consumers. His Public Utilities Commission went so far as to ignore a staff report and recommendations against a tariff on electric customers to pay for new gas pipelines. The latest energy planning documents include the Comprehensive Energy Plan Update from 2015 and the Efficiency Maine Trust Annual Report covering FY 2017." [Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, accessed 8/27/26]

LePage Proposed Cuts Which Took Health Care Away From Nearly 20,000 Mainers, Raising Their Health Care Costs

LePage Proposed Cuts Which Took Health Care Away From Nearly 20,000 Mainers. "A series of cuts to MaineCare—Maine's Medicaid program—will go into effect today , affecting the healthcare coverage of nearly 20,000 people statewide. Governor Paul LePage proposed the cuts late last year.   Early this year the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) approved cuts for 'the optional group of parents and caretakers' previously covered. It also approved reducing the MaineCare eligibity threshold of poor Mainers from 150 percent of the federal poverty level to 133 percent. In addition, the new cuts reduce benefits for elderly Mainers who are otherwise able to recieve coverage through Medicare." [Bowdoin Orient, 3/1/13]

- **LePage's Department Of Health And Human Services Approved Cuts For Parents And Caretakers, Reduced The Eligibility Threshold, And Reduced Benefits For Elderly Mainers.** "Early this year the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) approved cuts for 'the optional group of parents and caretakers' previously covered. It also approved reducing the MaineCare eligibity threshold of poor Mainers from 150 percent of the federal poverty level to 133 percent. In addition, the new cuts reduce benefits for elderly Mainers who are otherwise able to recieve coverage through Medicare." [Bowdoin Orient, 3/1/13]

A Study Found That Putting People On Medicaid Reduced Debt For The Average Person By $1,000. "A new study of the regions of the country with the largest percentage of low-income residents found that putting more people on Medicaid has reduced the number of unpaid bills of all kinds that go to collection agencies and cut by $1,000 the amounts that individuals had in collections." [Center for Retirement Research- Boston College, 9/27/18]

Now LePage Backs A Foreign War Sending Gas Prices And Home Heating Costs Soaring.

LePage Cheered On Strikes On Iran, Opposed A Ceasefire, And Said The Regime Leading Iran "Has Got To Go"

Portland Press Herald: LePage Said The Regime Leading Iran Amid The Monthslong War "Has Got To Go." "Former Gov. Paul LePage said Thursday that the regime leading Iran amid a monthslong war with the U.S. 'has got to go.' He also cast ceasefire efforts as 'not the answer.'" [Portland Press Herald, 8/13/26]

LePage Said Ceasefire Efforts On The Iran War Were "Not The Answer." "Former Gov. Paul LePage said Thursday that the regime leading Iran amid a monthslong war with the U.S. 'has got to go.' He also cast ceasefire efforts as 'not the answer.'" [Portland Press Herald, 8/13/26]

Lepage Cheered On The Iran Strikes, Stating "Our Brave Men And Women In Uniform Are Currently In Operations Defending Our Nation." "Meanwhile, congressional candidate and Former Maine Governor Paul Lepage, a Republican, also took to social media to share his thoughts. 'Our brave men and women in uniform are currently in operations defending our nation,' said LePage. 'For decades Iran has been under the control of a dangerous regime.'" [Spectrum Local News, 2/28/26]

The Iran War Caused Gas Prices To Increase, Forcing Americans To Spend An Additional $300 On Average To Fill Up Their Tank Of Gas

The Iran War Caused Gas Prices To Increase As The Conflict Disrupted Oil Supplies

Politico: Increases In Fuel Prices "Is Largely Due To The U.S. And Israel Attack On Iran And The Subsequent Closure Of Hormuz." "When fuel prices hit record highs under Biden, it was largely due to post-Covid supply disruptions and because Russia's war on Ukraine threatened global energy markets. The current price increase is largely due to the U.S. and Israel attack on Iran and the subsequent closure of Hormuz. Diesel prices in February, before U.S. and Israeli forces attacked Iran, were about $3.75." [Politico, 5/6/26]

June 2026: Since The Iran War Began, Americans Spent An Additional $300 On Average To Fill Up Their Tanks Of Gas. "The Iran war has cost Americans roughly $1,000 per household in higher fuel, food and other expenses since the start of the conflict in February, according to an estimate shared last week by Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi. […] According to Zandi, the biggest war-related expense for Americans has been gasoline, which peaked at $4.56 a gallon on May 21 before dipping back below $4 a gallon earlier this month. Since the war began on Feb. 28, Americans have shelled out an additional $300 on average to fill up their tanks, he found, an estimate that only factors in the higher cost of regular gas." [CBS News, 6/29/26]

Gas Prices Increased 50% Since The Start Of The Iran War. "The price of a gallon of regular gasoline climbed 31 cents in the past week, spiking to an average of $4.48 per gallon Tuesday, according to AAA, hitting the wallets of drivers after rising 50% since the war with Iran began. The main reason drivers are paying more at the pump is because of the global energy crisis caused by the Iran War. The price of crude oil, which is the main ingredient in gasoline, has been climbing for most of the past two months because the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow passage of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of the world's crude oil normally passes, has effectively been shut, and oil tankers have been stranded there unable to deliver crude." [PBS, 5/5/26]

The Iran War Led To Higher Utility Prices And Heating Costs

The Iran War Led To Higher Heating Costs. "Heating costs are soaring for millions of Americans amid the ongoing Iran war. Why It Matters The United States and Israel struck Iran in a military operation dubbed Operation Epic Fury on February 28 after failed talks between the U.S. and Iran to address Iran's nuclear program." [Newsweek, 3/13/26]

Newsweek Headline: "Heating Costs Soar For Millions Of Americans As Iran War Explodes." [Newsweek, 3/13/26]

New York Times: Energy Costs Increased Because Of The Iran War. "Daily life in America is getting more expensive, according to the latest inflation report from the Labor Department. Consumer prices rose 3.8 percent last month from a year earlier, their fastest rate in nearly three years, outpacing U.S. wage growth. Productivity is rising at a brisk pace, but the share of national income that goes to workers has sunk to its lowest point on record. The price increases were driven largely by energy costs, which have shot up sharply since the U.S. went to war with Iran. Airline fares are also up significantly. And the price of tomatoes surged nearly 40 percent over the last year because of bad weather, high tariffs and climbing transportation costs." [New York Times, 5/12/26]

- **New York Times Headline: “Inflation Accelerates As Iran War Drives Up Energy Costs.”** [New York Times, 5/12/26]

LePage Is “All For” Tariffs That Are Costing The Average Family $2,500 A Year And He Backs Massive Healthcare Cuts Raising Insurance Premiums For Millions Of Families.

LePage Said He Was “All For” Tariffs

LePage Said He Was “All For” Tariffs. “Maine's 2nd Congressional District shares a long border with Canada. When asked if he'll be spotlighting border security and immigration as major issues in his campaign, LePage said, ‘Big time.’ But the controversial tariffs the president placed on nations across the globe last month has strained relations with Canada. ‘I'm all for the tariffs,’ LePage said. ‘The tariffs will fix our international trade and lower taxes.’ LePage acknowledged: ‘Is it going to hurt in the short term? Yeah, it's going to hurt a little bit in the short term, but I think it's necessary.’ And he predicted that ‘the tariffs are going to be a short-term problem. I think they're going to settle out.’” [Fox News, 5/10/25]

- **LePage: “I'm All For The Tariffs.”** “Maine's 2nd Congressional District shares a long border with Canada. When asked if he'll be spotlighting border security and immigration as major issues in his campaign, LePage said, ‘Big time.’ But the controversial tariffs the president placed on nations across the globe last month has strained relations with Canada. ‘I'm all for the tariffs,’ LePage said. ‘The tariffs will fix our international trade and lower taxes.’ LePage acknowledged: ‘Is it going to hurt in the short term? Yeah, it's going to hurt a little bit in the short term, but I think it's necessary.’ And he predicted that ‘the tariffs are going to be a short-term problem. I think they're going to settle out.’” [Fox News, 5/10/25]

Joint Economic Committee: Trump’s Tariffs Would Cost Families More Than $2,500 In 2026

Joint Economic Committee: Trump’s Tariffs Would Cost Families More Than $2,500. “The Joint Economic Committee – Minority today released new data estimating that families could pay more than $2,500 in tariffs costs this year. Following the Supreme Court’s ruling that the bulk of the President’s tariff agenda was illegal, the administration moved immediately to enact new tariffs that Treasury Secretary Bessent claims will result in ‘virtually unchanged tariff revenue in 2026.’ The Committee estimated that if tariff revenue stays at the level recorded in January 2026 for the rest of the year, American families will pay more than $330 billion in tariff costs in 2026, an average of more than $2,500 in tariff costs per family. This is substantially higher than the more than $1,700 in average tariff costs that the Committee previously estimated that families paid during the first year of Trump’s second term. ‘Despite a Supreme Court ruling that much of Trump’s tariff agenda is illegal, the Trump Administration refuses to provide relief for families,’ said U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan, Ranking Member of the Joint Economic Committee. ‘As American families continue to struggle with high costs, the President keeps choosing to institute new tariffs that will push prices even higher.’” [Joint Economic Committee, Press Release, 3/13/26]

- **HEADLINE: “UPDATE: Families To Pay $2,500+ In Tariff Costs This Year.”** [Joint Economic Committee, Press Release, 3/13/26]

LePage Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill

LePage Said He Would Have Voted For The One Big Beautiful Bill. “Just last month, Trump signed the ‘Big Beautiful Bill.’ All of Maine's congressional delegation voted against it, but LePage said he would have voted for it. ‘I call it the working class tax cut because it's no tax on tips, no tax on overtime and reinstated the taxes that were passed in [20]16,’ LePage said. ‘Frankly, while the Democrats will call it tax breaks for the billionaires, I don't know anybody who works by the hour and pay and works overtime. That's a billionaire. I'd like to meet him, but I don't. I've never met one. I think it's the greatest thing that can happen to the Maine people, particularly in CD2, which is rural and poor.’” [WMTW, 8/8/25]

Bangor Daily News Headline: "Paul LePage Embraces The Biggest Parts Of Donald Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill.'" [Bangor Daily News, 7/8/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Cut $1 Trillion From Medicaid, The Largest Cut To Medicaid In American History

The Hill: Republicans Passed The Largest Cuts To Medicaid Since The Program Began In The 1960's. "Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than $3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about $1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)." [The Hill, 7/1/25]

- **The Hill: The Republicans' Made About $1 Trillion In Cuts To Medicaid.** "Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than $3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about $1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)." [The Hill, 7/1/25]

The Hill: "Congress Passed The Largest Medicaid Cuts In The Program's 60-Year History Through The GOP's Megabill Right Before The July 4 Holiday, A $1 Trillion Reduction Projected To Push More Than 12 Million Low-Income Individuals Off Their Health Insurance Over The Next Decade." "Medicaid is set to become a key issue in the battle over control of Congress in next year's midterm elections now that President Trump's "big, beautiful bill" has passed. Congress passed the largest Medicaid cuts in the program's 60-year history through the GOP's megabill right before the July 4 holiday, a $1 trillion reduction projected to push more than 12 million low-income individuals off their health insurance over the next decade. Republicans argue the moves are necessary to address waste and fraud in the program, ensuring "able-bodied" adults aren't taking advantage of the system." [The Hill, 7/7/25]

- **HEADLINE: "Senate Megabill Marks Biggest Medicaid Cuts In History."** [The Hill, 7/1/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Did Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans

The One Big Beautiful Bill Did Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans. "The OBBBA did not extend enhanced premium tax credits for ACA marketplace plans. As a result, when open enrollment begins on November 1, 2025, 20 million marketplace enrollees will see their premium costs spike." [Center for American Progress, 7/29/25]

The Expiration Of The Obamacare Subsidies, Which Were Used By 22 Million Americans, Raised Rates By 58%

NBC: 22 Million Americans Used Obamacare Subsidies. "The Republican-controlled Senate voted Thursday to reject health care bills offered by each party, as the U.S. barrels toward a cliff with steep premium hikes for millions of Americans set to hit next month. The failed votes raise the likelihood that enhanced Obamacare subsidies passed in 2021 will expire at the end of this year and cause premiums to double on average for some 22 million Americans who benefit from that funding." [NBC News, 12/11/25]

KFF: ACA Subsidies Expiring Led To An Average Increase Of 58% In Premiums. "The ACA's enhanced premium tax credits expired at the end of 2025—leading to a 58% average increase in out-of-pocket premiums in 2026 and deductibles of about $1,000 more per person." [KFF, 7/8/26]

Paul LePage Message #2

Paul LePage's agenda is making life harder for senior citizens. LePage calls Social Security and Medicare "welfare, pure and simple." As Governor, LePage opposed funding Meals on Wheels, refused funding for Alzheimer's and dementia programs, and blocked millions for affordable senior housing. Now LePage backs one of the biggest billionaire tax cuts in history – paid for by threatening Social Security and wrecking the rural healthcare lifeline seniors and families rely on.

Paul LePage's Agenda Is Making Life Harder For Senior Citizens.

Backup Below

LePage Calls Social Security And Medicare "Welfare, Pure And Simple."

LePage: "It Doesn't Matter What Liberals Call These Payments, It Is Welfare, Pure And Simple"

Portland Press Herald Headline: "LePage Includes Social Security Among 'Welfare' Programs." [Portland Press Herald, 6/25/14]

2014: LePage Included Social Security And Medicare As Welfare Programs. "Gov. Paul LePage has long cast a wide net for programs that he says fit the definition of welfare. On Wednesday, in a media release written as an alternative take on new personal-income data from the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis, he lumped Social Security and Medicare into that definition." [Portland Press Herald, 6/25/14]

LePage: "It Doesn't Matter What Liberals Call These Payments, It Is Welfare, Pure And Simple." "LePage said he chose not to follow the federal bureau's definition because it conceals welfare benefits. 'It doesn't matter what liberals call these payments, it is welfare, pure and simple,' LePage said in the statement." [Portland Press Herald, 6/25/14]

LePage Disagreed With The Federal Government's Definition Of Welfare And Included Social Security And Medicare, Which The Federal Government Included As "Personal Current Transfer Receipts," Which LePage Instead Referred To As "Welfare, Pure And Simple." "The governor arrived at his number by excluding what the federal bureau calls 'personal current transfer receipts' and dividends, interest and rental income. Personal current transfer receipts include payments from the federal government to states for Social Security, Medicare, unemployment benefits and Medicaid expansion. Maine is one of only four states (Indiana, Tennessee and Wyoming are the others) where transfer receipts declined in the first quarter of this year. Nationally, transfer receipts grew by $41.1 billion. LePage said he chose not to follow the federal bureau's definition because it conceals welfare benefits. 'It doesn't matter what liberals call these payments, it is welfare, pure and simple,' LePage said in the statement." [Portland Press Herald, 6/25/14]

As Governor, LePage Opposed Funding Meals On Wheels, Refused Funding For Alzheimer's And Dementia Programs, And Blocked Millions For Affordable Senior Housing.

LePage Opposed Funding For Meals On Wheels

LePage Opposed Funding For Meals On Wheels. "Gov. Paul LePage has vetoed Meals on Wheels funding as a line item in the proposed state budget. The executive director of the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Jessica Maurer, says she's shocked that the governor crossed off the proposed $55,000 funding for the program. 'It's remarkable, particularly because the governor's rhetoric suggests that he wants to support Maine's elderly,' Maurer says. 'He wants to do away with wait lists. And this bill was, in fact, a bill that would help older adults come off the wait list for a critically needed service.' Maurer says 200 older adults are currently on a wait list for the Meals on Wheels program, which has seen an increased demand and flat funding in recent years." [Maine Public Radio, 6/18/15]

Maine Public Radio Headline: "Elderly Advocates Decry LePage Veto Of Meals On Wheels Funding." [Maine Public Radio, 6/18/15]

LePage Refused Funding For Alzheimer's And Dementia Programs

Maine Forfeited Federal Funding For Alzheimer Care. "Since 2011, Maine has forfeited over $1.9 billion in available federal resources that could have helped protect Mainers' health and well-being, promote tax fairness, and boost the state's economy. These funds would have injected up to $700 million into Maine's economy and supported as many as 4,800 jobs annually. […] Table 1 - Key Federal Funds Lost for Public Health Alzheimer's: Supports sufferers of the disease and their caregivers $300,000 One in eight people aged 65 and older has Alzheimer's;6 the 6th leading cause of death in Maine7 69,000 Maine Alzheimer's caregivers give 78 million hours of unpaid care each year8 Maine's Medicaid Alzheimer's cost is $187 million annually9." [Maine Center for Economic Policy, March 2017]

LePage Failed To Apply For Federal Funding For A Dementia Program. "We have known for a long time that Maine is facing an aging crisis. Half of our population is older than 44, and every year there are fewer births than deaths and more Mainers turn 65 than graduate from high school. Our changing demographics have implications for housing, health care and civic life that require coordinated action and leadership from the highest level of state government. But that's not what we've gotten for the last eight years. Under the administration of Paul LePage, we have lost ground in nearly every policy area that is implicated by our aging population, creating unnecessary suffering for today's seniors and guaranteeing more of the same for tomorrow's. The governor gives a lot of rhetorical support for older Mainers, but when it comes time to get anything done, it's just talk. Perhaps the most damning statistic is the number of seniors living in poverty, which has grown even as the state's economy has improved. The number of adults over age 60 who said they didn't have enough food increased from 12.2 percent to 15.6 percent, according to America's Health Rankings Senior Report 2018. While thousands of elderly Mainers are living in homes they can't afford to heat or maintain, the governor single-handedly stopped a $15 million senior housing bond that had been approved by voters after getting two-thirds support in both houses of the Legislature. The program was much smaller than the $65 million bond recommended by advocates, but it would have been a small step in the right direction. Instead, the governor pounds his fist about a bill to make it more complicated for towns to foreclose on property owned by seniors who owe taxes, based on the story of one couple in Albion, while he ignores the underlying problem -- a critical shortage of affordable housing for seniors. A number of equally inexplicable decisions have stood in the way of people in need getting help. In 2015, the administration turned back a five-year, $2.5 million federal grant that would have promoted colonoscopies among older Mainers. The next year, his Department of Health and Human Services failed to apply for $300,000 in federal aid to help the 28,000 Mainers with Alzheimer's disease and their unpaid family caregivers. This year, the state failed to apply for as much as $1 million in federal funds for dementia programming, offering no explanation to the families who would have benefited." [Portland Press Herald, 9/16/18]

2011-2019: LePage Was Governor Of Maine. "Governor's Name State Time in Office Party Gov. Paul LePage Maine 2011 - 2019 Republican." [National Governors Association, accessed 8/26/26]

LePage Opposed Millions Of Dollars' Worth Of Housing Bonds For Low-Income Seniors

LePage Opposed Millions Of Dollars' Worth Of Housing Bonds For Low-Income Seniors. "Gov. Janet Mills will authorize the spring sale of a $15 million senior housing bond that was blocked by her predecessor after being approved by Maine voters in 2015 amid a larger backlog of voter-approved bonds that haven't yet been issued. The housing bond, which passed with 69 percent support in a statewide referendum, would build 200 energy-efficient homes for low-income seniors and weatherize another 100 homes for low-income seniors. It would be matched with $22.6 million in federal funds. Former Gov. Paul LePage, a Republican, opposed the bond, which was proposed by one of his main rivals, former House Speaker Mark Eves, D-North Berwick. LePage gave differing reasons for not authorizing the sale, from saying he was worried about the state's credit rating to saying it would be a windfall for developers." [Bangor Daily News, 1/9/19]

Bangor Daily News Headline: "Mills To Release Senior Housing Bonds That LePage Blocked Since 2015." [Bangor Daily News, 1/9/19]

Now LePage Backs One Of The Biggest Billionaire Tax Cuts In History – Paid For By Threatening Social Security And Wrecking The Rural Healthcare Lifeline Seniors And Families Rely On.

LePage Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill

Bangor Daily News Headline: "Paul LePage Embraces The Biggest Parts Of Donald Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill.'" [Bangor Daily News, 7/8/25]

LePage Said He Would Have Voted For The One Big Beautiful Bill. "Just last month, Trump signed the 'Big Beautiful Bill.' All of Maine's congressional delegation voted against it, but LePage said he would have voted for it. 'I call it the working class tax cut because it's no tax on tips, no tax on overtime and reinstated the taxes that were passed in [20]16,' LePage said. 'Frankly, while the Democrats will call it tax breaks for the billionaires, I don't know anybody who works by the hour and pay and works overtime. That's a billionaire. I'd like to meet him, but I don't. I've never met one. I think it's the greatest thing that can happen to the Maine people, particularly in CD2, which is rural and poor.'" [WMTW, 8/8/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Included One Of The Largest Tax Cuts For Billionaires Ever

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Enact The Largest Upward Wealth Transfer In American History

The Guardian: "Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act Doled Out Enormous Tax Cuts To Billionaire And Millionaire Alike." "Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act doled out enormous tax cuts to billionaire and millionaire alike." [Guardian, 8/15/26]

Atlantic: "House Republicans Worked Through The Night To Advance A Massive Piece Of Legislation That Might, If Enacted, Carry Out The Largest Upward Transfer Of Wealth In American History." "House Republicans worked through the night to advance a massive piece of legislation that might, if enacted, carry out the largest upward transfer of wealth in American history. That is not a side effect of the legislation, but its central purpose. The 'big, beautiful bill' would pair huge cuts to food assistance and health insurance for low-income Americans with even larger tax cuts for affluent ones." [The Atlantic, 5/22/25]

- **The Atlantic Headline: "The Largest Upward Transfer Of Wealth In American History."** [The Atlantic, 5/22/25]

CAP: "The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Issue The Largest Transfer Of Wealth From Working-Class Americans To The Ultrawealthy In The Nation's History." "The One Big Beautiful Bill Act would issue the largest transfer of wealth from working-class Americans to the ultrawealthy in the nation's history. To do so, House Republicans are proposing to cut programs that are essential to people, especially in states that voted for Trump in the last election, in order to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. Under this proposal, millionaires would see a larger tax cut than the bottom half of Americans combined—with more than $1.5 trillion in tax cuts going to the top 5 percent. In total, households that make at least $1 million per year would receive roughly twice as much in tax breaks as the bottom 50 percent of the nation combined. Roughly 57 million households in the bottom 60 percent would see a tax increase or a negligible tax change ($100 in either direction) under the House Republican proposal. Not only does this proposal extend the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's tax breaks for the wealthy, but it also adds additional loopholes that skew the tax code even more in favor of the ultrawealthy. Polling demonstrates that Republican voters oppose the bill when they learn that the tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit those who are already rich." [Center for American Progress, 6/13/25]

- **CNBC: Households In The Top 5% Were "The Biggest Winners."** "House Republicans passed a budget plan Tuesday that lays the groundwork to extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, a package of tax breaks enacted in 2017 during President Donald Trump's first term. […] However, with an extension, the largest tax cuts would accrue to the highest-income families, the Treasury said. Household in the top 5% — who earn more than $450,000 a year, roughly — are the 'biggest winners,' according to a July 2024 analysis by the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. They'd get over 45% of the benefits of extending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, it said. A Penn Wharton Budget Model analysis on the impacts of the broad Republican tax plan had a similar finding. The bottom 80% of income earners would get 29% of the total value of proposed tax cuts in 2026, according to the Wharton analysis, issued Thursday. The top 10% would get 56% of the value, it said." [CNBC, 3/3/25]

Economic Policy Institute Headline: "The Radical Republican Budget Bill Steals From The Poor To Give Tax Cuts To The Rich." [Economic Policy Institute, 7/2/25]

Cronkite News Headline: "Historic Tax Cuts In Trump's Big Beautiful Bill Have Wide Gap Between Winners And Big Winners." [Cronkite News, 7/16/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Gave The Richest Americans The Bulk Of The Tax Cuts

The One Big Beautiful Bill's Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest. "The One Big Beautiful Bill includes the largest tax cuts in U.S. history. Whether it's actually 'beautiful' is in the eye of the beholder. At every income level taxes should subside. That's a big selling point from President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans who pushed the law through Congress with no Democratic support. It will benefit everyone. But the biggest cuts go to the wealthiest taxpayers – the ones who pay the lion's share of taxes. For most families the savings will be miniscule in comparison, in raw dollars and as a share of income. And millions will lose subsidized health insurance and other benefits. Critics see a plan that widens income inequality and, worse, offsets tax cuts for the wealthy with draconian spending cuts that hit lower-income households." [Cronkite News, 7/16/25]

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The House-Passed Reconciliation Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans $117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026. "The House of Representatives today narrowly passed a massive tax and spending reconciliation bill that now heads to President Trump's desk. Please see below for a statement from ITEP and our latest updated analysis of how the bill's tax provisions will affect families at different income levels nationally and in every state. […] The richest 1 percent of Americans would receive a total of $117 billion in net tax cuts in 2026. The middle 20 percent of taxpayers on the income scale, a group that has 20 times the number of taxpayers as the richest 1 percent, would receive less than half that much, $53 billion in net tax cuts that year." [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, 7/3/24]

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The Value Of The Tax Cuts In The One Big Beautiful Bill Exceeded The Amount Going To The Entire Bottom 60%. "The House of Representatives today narrowly passed a massive tax and spending reconciliation bill that now heads to President Trump's desk. Please see below for a statement from ITEP and our latest updated analysis of how the bill's tax provisions will affect families at different income levels nationally and in every state. […] The $117 billion in net tax cuts going to the richest 1 percent next year would exceed the amount going to the entire bottom 60 percent of taxpayers (about $77 billion)." [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, 7/3/24]

The One Big Beautiful Would Accelerate Threats To Social Security's Solvency

Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget Headline: "OBBBA Would Accelerate Social Security & Medicare Insolvency." [Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, 6/27/25]

The Big Beautiful Bill Reduced The Revenue Collected From The Income Taxation Of Social Security Benefits, Reducing Total Taxation Of Benefits By $30 Billion And Accelerating Social Security Insolvency. "However, OBBBA would impact Social Security and Medicare indirectly, mainly by reducing the revenue collected from the income taxation of Social Security benefits, which is deposited into the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. […]We estimate that the extension and expansion of the 2017 tax cuts, the expanded senior deduction, and other OBBBA changes would reduce total taxation of benefits by roughly $30 billion per year. This would be enough to accelerate insolvency of the Social Security Old-Age and Survivors (OASI) trust fund from early 2033 to late 2032 and to accelerate insolvency of the HI trust fund from late 2033 to mid-2032." [Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget, 6/27/25]

Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget: "We Estimate That Social Security Beneficiaries Would Face An Across-The-Board Benefit Cut Of Around 24 Percent" Upon Insolvency. "Upon insolvency in 2032, we estimate that Social Security beneficiaries would face an across-the-board benefit cut of around 24 percent – even deeper than the cuts scheduled under current law. HI payments, meanwhile, would be cut by 11 percent." [Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget, 6/27/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Proposed The Largest Medicaid Cut In History, Particularly Affecting Rural Communities And Jeopardizing Hundreds Of Rural Hospitals

The One Big Beautiful Bill Cut $1 Trillion From Medicaid, The Largest Cut To Medicaid In American History

The Hill: Republicans Passed The Largest Cuts To Medicaid Since The Program Began In The 1960's. "Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than $3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about $1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)." [The Hill, 7/1/25]

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HEADLINE: "Rural Communities Brace For Medicaid Cuts In Republicans' Big Bill." [NBC, 6/25/25]

The Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Result In 1.8 Million Individuals In Rural Communities Losing Their Medicaid Coverage. "Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a $50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years." [American Hospital Association, 6/16/25]

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The Cuts To Medicaid And Other Federal Health Programs In President Trump's Budget Plan Would "Rapidly Push" More Than 300 Financially Struggling Rural Hospitals Toward A Fiscal Cliff. "Cuts to Medicaid and other federal health programs proposed in President Donald Trump's budget plan would rapidly push more than 300 financially struggling rural hospitals toward a fiscal cliff, according to researchers who track the facilities' finances. The hospitals would be at a disproportionate risk of closure, service reductions, or ending inpatient care, according to a report authored by experts from the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research following a request from Senate Democrats, who released the findings publicly Thursday. Many of those hospitals are in Kentucky, Louisiana, California, and Oklahoma, according to the analysis." [KFF, 6/12/25]

- **Families USA Headline: "NEW REPORT: Big, Bad Budget Betrayal Would Bring Rural Hospitals To The Brink Of Closure."** [Families USA, 6/23/25]

- **The Hill Headline: "Hospitals Brace For 'Big, Beautiful' Medicaid Cuts."** [The Hill, 7/14/25]

Paul LePage Message #3

Paul LePage's policies are wrecking the healthcare lifeline that rural Maine communities rely on. As Governor, he cut the number of state public health nurses by half and left our local hospitals on the brink of financial collapse. Now he backs Washington's rural healthcare cuts that threaten coverage for more than 40,000 Mainers and strip vital funding from the clinics and hospitals keeping our communities alive.

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Backup below.

As Governor, He Cut The Number Of State Public Health Nurses By Half And Left Our Local Hospitals On The Brink Of Financial Collapse.

LePage Cut The Number Of State Public Health Nurses By Over Half

LePage Cut The Number Of State Public Health Nurses By Over Half. "When Governor Paul LePage took office in 2011, there were around 50 nurses in Maine's public health program; today there are only around 20. LePage has dismantled this program, say nurses, by not filling open RN positions, by removing support staff and systems, and by replacing postpartum visiting RNs with non-medical personnel who are not trained or licensed to deliver health services to new parents and babies. A 2013 budget proposal from LePage cites public health nursing as a target area to cut." [National Nurses United, 4/12/17]

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Bangor Daily News Headline: "LePage Cut Ranks Of Nurses Who Prevent Outbreaks. Now Lawmakers Are Trying To Rebuild." [Bangor Daily News, 4/7/17]

LePage's Anti-Bonding Policies Forced Maine Hospitals To Pay Millions More In Interest On Loans While Hospitals Were Implementing Layoffs

2014: An "All-Time High" Number Of Maine Hospitals Were Struggling With Two-Thirds Of Maine Hospital Association Members "Implementing Layoffs And Pay Freezes To Address Financial Shortfalls." "Hospitals in Maine today are struggling. The Maine Hospital Association (MHA) reports that an all-time high two-thirds of its 38 member hospitals are implementing layoffs and pay freezes to address financial shortfalls. Hospitals in Augusta, Ellsworth, Brunswick, Bridgton, Rumford, and Calais, have recently announced layoffs. In March this year, the Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor reported a $7 million budget shortfall. And Maine's biggest hospital, Maine Medical Center, cut 225 jobs due to a $13.4 million operating deficit in August 2013. The hospitals cite fewer patients, lower Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, and higher charitable care costs as factors contributing to their financial woes, but they also say Maine's failure to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act has made lay-offs necessary." [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 6/18/14]

2014: LePage's Anti-Bonding Policies Forced Maine Hospitals To Pay Millions More In Interest On Loans. "Last week, the (Lewiston) Sun Journal reported that the LePage Administration's anti-bonding policies are forcing MaineGeneral Medical Center to pay $42 million more in interest on loans than is necessary on the construction of their new hospital in Augusta. That's $1.4 million in avoidable interest payments annually for 30 years. The legislature created the Maine Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority (MHHEFA) to allow entities like hospitals, nursing homes, public colleges, and other eligible nonprofits access to low-interest bonds. For 25 years, nonprofits have been able to join a pool under the MHHEFA that garners them lower interest rates saving money on medical costs, elder care, tuition rates, and other community services. For more than three years, Governor LePage has refused to authorize the sale of the nonprofit bonds asserting that voters should approve them and that, if the institutions default, the state's credit rating will be impacted. By law, the state is not liable for repayment of these nonprofit bonds. However, if the institutions default, the state would have a moral obligation to repay them, thus they are frequently called 'moral obligation' bonds. But Robert Lenna, who conceived of the idea for MHHEFA, calls concerns about an impact on the state's credit rating 'nonsense' and points to safeguards that protect the state, including healthy reserve accounts maintained for just this purpose. The governor's professed deference to voters is a sham. He has twice refused to authorize bonds that the voters did approve. And earlier this year, he proposed his own moral obligation bond for a $100 million renovation to the Windham prison through bonds issued by the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority (MGFA), without regard for voter approval. MGFA is an entity almost identical to MHHEFA, for use by the courts and other state agencies. Hospitals in Maine today are struggling. The Maine Hospital Association (MHA) reports that an all-time high two-thirds of its 38 member hospitals are implementing layoffs and pay freezes to address financial shortfalls. Hospitals in Augusta, Ellsworth, Brunswick, Bridgton, Rumford, and Calais, have recently announced layoffs. In March this year, the Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor reported a $7 million budget shortfall. And Maine's biggest hospital, Maine Medical Center, cut 225 jobs due to a $13.4 million operating deficit in August 2013. The hospitals cite fewer patients, lower Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, and higher charitable care costs as factors contributing to their financial woes, but they also say Maine's failure to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act has made lay-offs necessary." [Maine Center for Economic Policy, 6/18/14]

Now He Backs Washington's Rural Healthcare Cuts That Threaten Coverage For More Than 40,000 Mainers And Strip Vital Funding From The Clinics And Hospitals Keeping Our Communities Alive.

LePage Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill

LePage Said He Would Have Voted For The One Big Beautiful Bill. "Just last month, Trump signed the 'Big Beautiful Bill.' All of Maine's congressional delegation voted against it, but LePage said he would have voted for it. 'I call it the working class tax cut because it's no tax on tips, no tax on overtime and reinstated the taxes that were passed in [20]16,' LePage said. 'Frankly, while the Democrats will call it tax breaks for the billionaires, I don't know anybody who works by the hour and pay and works overtime. That's a billionaire. I'd like to meet him, but I don't. I've never met one. I think it's the greatest thing that can happen to the Maine people, particularly in CD2, which is rural and poor.'" [WMTW, 8/8/25]

Bangor Daily News Headline: "Paul LePage Embraces The Biggest Parts Of Donald Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill.'" [Bangor Daily News, 7/8/25]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Estimated To Kick More Than 40,000 Mainers Off Their Health Insurance

September 2025: The Joint Economic Committee Minority Estimated More Than 40,000 Mainers Would Lose Health Insurance By 2034 Due To Congressional Republicans' Cuts To Medicaid And The ACA. "According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO)'s most recent analysis, President Trump and Congressional Republicans' cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would result in 16 million people losing their health insurance by 2034. Using CBO's analysis released June 4 and other research, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority calculated new estimates of the number of people who would lose health insurance." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, September 2025]

Health Insurance Losses From Cuts To Medicaid And The Affordable Care Act Under The One Big Beautiful Bill			
District	**Est. Number of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage**	**Est. Number of People Losing Medicaid Coverage**	**Est. Total Number of People Losing Insurance**
ME-01	2,300	13,233	15,533
ME-02	2,200	23,189	25,389
		Total:	**40,922**

[Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, September 2025]

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2025: ME-02 Had Two Rural Hospitals Listed As At-Risk Based On Financial Vulnerability. "In order to understand in greater detail how rural communities could be impacted by health care cuts contained in the reconciliation package, we requested the attached data from the Sheps Center on the financial vulnerability of rural hospitals and potential impacts on their viability. These hospitals have been identified as at-risk hospitals based on financial data, including: whether the hospital has been unprofitable for the last three years; whether the hospital is at risk of financial distress relative to peer hospitals; and whether the hospital serves a disproportionately high share of Medicaid patients. The findings demonstrate that hundreds of rural hospitals across the country would feel pain from the House-passed reconciliation bill." [Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, Letter on Rural Hospitals, 6/12/25]

At-Risk Rural Hospitals In ME-02, 2025			
Hospital	**City**	**Top Medicaid Provider**	**Three Consecutive Years Of Negative Margins**
THE AROOSTOOK MEDICAL CENTER	PRESQUE ISLE	Yes	No
MAINE COAST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	ELLSWORTH	Yes	No

[Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, At-Risk Rural Hospitals List, 6/12/25]