

[Senate Republican
Facebook Page](#)

[Maine Legislature](#)

[Find Legislation](#)

Dear Friends,

Late last week, Governor Paul LePage released the biennium budget proposal for years 2018-19 as well as a supplemental budget for the rest of fiscal year 2017. The budget document is hundreds of pages long. Some highlights include:

- A reduction of the top individual income tax rate from 10.15 percent to a flat tax of 5.75 percent
- A repeal of the existing state funding formula to redirect state support to direct instruction and create a statewide teacher contract and shift all funding for administration to the school districts
- Elimination of the school laptop program
- Additional funding to reduce current waitlists for services, primarily for those with disabilities
- The creation of a new cabinet-level Department of Technology Services
- The elimination of approximately 500 state jobs
- A minimum \$400 tax credit for residents age 65 and older with incomes of less than \$20,000
- An expansion of the sales tax to include amusement and recreation services; household services; installation, repair and maintenance services; personal services and personal property services.
- An increase in the sales tax rate on lodging from nine percent to 10%

- Remove 15,000 low-income Mainers with children from the MaineCare program

Over the coming weeks, the Legislature will begin to hold hearings and solicit public input on the various components included within the budget. It is safe to say many of the ideas are bold and others are clearly proposals requiring much thought. To view the budget proposals, [click here](#).

Sincerely,

Tom Saviello

Senator Tom Saviello represents Senate District 17 which includes all Franklin County communities, as well as the Kennebec County communities of Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, and Vienna.

Maine Senate Republicans | [\(207\) 287-1505](tel:2072871505)
<http://senaterepublicans.maine.gov>
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333