

Dear Friends:

It's a great honor to have the opportunity to serve the people of Senate District 17 in the 128th Legislature. If you have a question or comment about what is happening at the State House, I would like to hear from you. Please use the information provided above to contact me, or email me at [drtom16@hotmail.com](mailto:drtom16@hotmail.com).

Here's an update on what is happening in Augusta.

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.*

## State News Updates

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### **Sen. Saviello Again Seeks to Bring Down the Wall Between Breweries and Brewpubs**

AUGUSTA - Senator Saviello (R-Franklin) has again introduced legislation to ease restrictions on brewers that also hold a restaurant liquor license.

Under current law, brewers that also hold a restaurant liquor license must have a wall between where they sell beer and food for on-premises consumption and the area they sell beer for customers to take home. Senator Saviello's bill (LD 388) seeks to eliminate that requirement.

"Craft brewing is incredibly popular right now with at least 27 brewpubs around Maine," said Sen. Saviello. "This bill provides a great opportunity for lawmakers to eliminate a burdensome, unnecessary regulation so that these businesses can continue to grow and succeed.

"Brewers are able to sell beer samples for on premise consumption and also sell beer to enjoy at home. It isn't right that if they also have a restaurant liquor license, they are required to conduct their business in separate spaces."

At this time, LD 388 has been referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs for consideration.

A similar bill was introduced by Sen. Saviello last session; it lost by one vote in the Senate.

## **4-H Members Serve As Honorary Pages in Maine Senate**

Photo Caption: Sen. Tom Saviello, Caleb Mulcahy

AUGUSTA - On Thursday, February 2, Caleb Mulcahy of New Sharon visited the Maine State House with UMaine Cooperative Extension to help educate legislators on the work of Extension throughout the state and learn more about the political process. During his visit he served as an Honorary Page in the Maine Senate, gaining hands-on civic experience. "I would like to thank the UMaine Cooperative Extension for continuing the tradition of bringing 4-H members to the State House to learn and participate in the process," said Sen. Saviello (R-Franklin).

## **Farmington Pastor Opens State Senate in Prayer**

AUGUSTA- On Tuesday, February 7, Pastor Jordan Shaw of Farmington (Left) served as Pastor of the Day, delivering the opening prayer in the Maine State Senate.

Pastor Jordan Shaw leads the congregation at Trinity United Methodist Church in Farmington. Before joining the congregation in Farmington, he served in a number of locations including the mid-coast region of Maine, the western suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts and eastern Vermont. An important member of the community, Pastor Shaw has worked closely with victims, survivors and perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence.

"It was an honor to meet with Pastor Shaw today, and to have him open our day in prayer," said Maine Sen. Tom Saviello (R-Franklin). "He does important work in the Franklin County area; we are lucky to have him as part of our community."

## **Legislative Update**

The Legislature's appropriations committee has begun the long process of crafting the next two-year state budget, which takes effect in July. Public hearings began last week and are expected to continue through mid-March. The Marijuana task force has also begun its work to draft rules and regulations for the implementation of retail marijuana sales, which will go into effect in February of 2018. To stay updated on the work of these committees, along with all other legislative committees, visit [legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees](http://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees).

## **Maine Supreme Court Accepting Filing Briefs on Ranked -Choice Voting Question**

The Maine Supreme Court has issued a procedural order that establishes a schedule for briefings on the matter of ranked-choice voting.

The justices have invited representatives from the Maine Senate, House of Representatives, Governor Paul LePage, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General and other interested parties to file briefs addressing two questions: whether a solemn occasion exists for the Supreme Court to address the matter of ranked-choice voting and whether ranked-choice voting is allowed under the Maine Constitution.

Senate President Michael Thibodeau (R-Waldo) said, "I would like to thank the justices for their prompt response in acknowledging the Senate's request to look into this matter. Lawmakers desperately need guidance from the court as we move forward crafting public policy in order to prevent uncertainty in the outcome of our future elections."

The Law Court has established Friday, March 3, 2017, 4 p.m. as the deadline for submitting briefs.

Oral arguments before the Supreme Court are scheduled for April 13, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at the Cumberland County Courthouse.

## **2017 Maine Moose Permit Lottery Now Open**

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) is accepting applications for the 2017 Maine moose permit lottery until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 15. According to IFW, "Applicants are awarded bonus points for each consecutive year that they have applied for the lottery since 1998 without being selected and each bonus point gives the applicant an additional chance in the drawing. Bonus points are earned at the rate of one per year for years one to five, two per year for years six to 10, three per year for years 11 to 15 and 10 per year for years 16 and beyond." The drawing will take place on June 17 at Caribou Parks and Recreation. To apply, visit [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com).

## **Cooperative Extension Releases Drought Navigation Guide**

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension has released an online guide to help farmers, gardeners and landowners plan for and successfully navigate a drought at [extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/programs/drought](http://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/programs/drought). Included on the website are information on what to do if your well runs dry or your farm runs out of water as well as information on crop insurance and other federal programs that are available. The guide also provides simple-to-implement measures that can lessen or avoid the impacts of a drought.

## **2017 Engineering EXPO**

The 2017 Engineering EXPO will take place on Saturday, March 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Gorham campus of the University of Southern Maine. More than 1,700 children and adults are expected to attend to learn first-hand about the many contributions that Maine engineers make to our communities around the state. Exhibitors will include Maine's top engineering firms, engineering schools, educators, government agencies, industry and engineering societies. For more information, visit the [2017 Engineering EXPO Facebook page](#).