

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record
House of Representatives
One Hundred and Twenty-First Legislature
State of Maine

Volume I

First Regular Session

December 4, 2002 – May 23, 2003

Pages 1-776

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2nd Legislative Day
Wednesday, January 8, 2003

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Pastor Ralph R. Bedard, Little Falls Baptist Church, Gorham.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Wednesday, December 4, 2002 was read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 5)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 5, 2002

Honorable Millicent M. MacFarland

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk MacFarland:

Pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Part Third, Section 1-A of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I hereby appoint the following members of the House to serve on the Apportionment Commission:

Rep. Matthew Dunlap of Old Town

Rep. David G. Lemoine of Old Orchard Beach

Rep. Rosita Gagne-Friel of Buckfield

Should you have any questions about these appointments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Patrick Colwell

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 6)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 20, 2002

Millicent M. MacFarland

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear Clerk MacFarland:

This is to notify you that pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Part Third, Section 1-A, of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am appointing the following House members from the Republican Party to serve on the Apportionment Commission:

Representative Roderick Carr of Lincoln

Representative Joshua Tardy of Newport

Representative Jonathan Courtney of Sanford

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

S/ Joe Bruno

House Republican Leader

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 7)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

TO: Millicent M. MacFarland

Clerk of the House

FROM: S/Patrick Colwell

Speaker of the House

DATE: January 2, 2003

RE: Committee Appointments

121st Legislature

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1(l)(a), I have made the following appointments to the various Joint Standing Committees.

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Linda Rogers McKee, Chair (D-Wayne)

Jacqueline A. Lundeen (D-Mars Hill)

Raymond G. Pineau (D-Jay)

John F. Piotti (D-Unity)

Nancy E. Smith (D-Monmouth)

Roderick W. Carr (R-Lincoln)*

Ken Honey (R-Boothbay)

Eugene L. Churchill (R-Orland)

Kenneth C. Fletcher (R-Winslow)

John Eder (G-Portland)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Joseph C. Brannigan, Chair (D-Portland)

Richard H. Mailhot (D-Lewiston)

Scott W. Cowger (D-Hallowell)

Benjamin F. Dudley (D-Portland)

Sean Faircloth (D-Bangor)

Hannah Pingree (D-North Haven)

Richard W. Rosen (R-Bucksport)*

S. Peter Mills (R-Cornville)

H. Sawin Millett, Jr. (R-Waterford)

Julie Ann O'Brien (R-Augusta)

Banking and Insurance

Christopher P. O'Neil, Chair (D-Saco)

Marilyn E. Canavan (D-Waterville)

Joseph C. Perry (D-Bangor)

Bonita J. Breault (D-Buxton)

Anne C. Perry (D-Calais)

Kevin J. Glynn (R-South Portland)*

Florence T. Young (R-Limestone)

Lois A. Snowe-Mello (R-Poland)

Michael A. Vaughan (R-Durham)

Richard G. Woodbury (U-Yarmouth)

Business and Economic Development

Nancy B. Sullivan, Chair (D-Biddeford)

Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien (D-Lewiston)

Guy J. Duprey, Jr. (D-Medway)

Edward Pellon (D-Machias)

Nancy E. Smith (D-Monmouth)

Susan M. Austin (R-Gray)*

Robert A. Berube (R-Lisbon)

Lawrence E. Jacobsen (R-Waterboro)

Christopher Rector (R-Thomaston)

William T. Rogers, Jr. (R-Brewer)

Criminal Justice

George H. Bunker, Jr., Chair (D-Kossuth Township)

Patricia A. Blanchette (D-Bangor)

Stan Gerzofsky (D-Brunswick)
 Paul J. Lessard (D-Topsham)
 Carol A. Grose (D-Woolwich)
 Lois A. Snowe-Mello (R-Poland)*
 Christian D. Greeley (R-Levant)
 Louis B. Maietta, Jr. (R-South Portland)
 Richard M. Sykes (R-Harrison)
 John W. Churchill (R-Washburn)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Glenn A. Cummings, Chair (D-Portland)
 Rosita Gagne-Friel (D-Buckfield)
 Jacqueline R. Norton (D-Bangor)
 Jonathan Thomas (D-Orono)
 Edward D. Finch (D-Fairfield)
 Jeremy Fischer (D-Presque Isle)
 Thomas W. Murphy, Jr. (R-Kennebunk)*
 Mary Black Andrews (R-York)
 Mary Ellen Ledwin (R-Holden)
 Gerald M. Davis (R-Falmouth)

Health and Human Services

Thomas J. Kane, Chair (D-Saco)
 Edward R. Dugay (D-Cherryfield)
 Marie Laverriere-Boucher (D-Biddeford)
 Margaret M. Craven (D-Lewiston)
 William M. Earle (D-Damariscotta)
 William R. Walcott (D-Lewiston)
 Thomas F. Shields (R-Auburn)*
 Darlene J. Curley (R-Scarborough)
 James J. Campbell, Sr. (R-Newfield)
 Sarah O. Lewin (R-Eliot)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Matthew Dunlap, Chair (D-Old Town)
 Monica McGlocklin (D-Embden)
 Raymond G. Pineau (D-Jay)
 Thomas R. Watson (D-Bath)
 Walter A. Wheeler, Sr. (D-Kittery)
 Raymond Wotton (D-Littleton)
 A. David Trahan (R-Waldoboro)*
 Ken Honey (R-Boothbay)
 James H. Tobin, Jr. (R-Dexter)
 Earl E. Richardson (R-Greenville)

Judiciary

William S. Norbert, Chair (D-Portland)
 Thomas D. Bull (D-Freeport)
 Deborah L. Simpson (D-Auburn)
 Philip R. Bennett, Jr. (D-Caribou)
 Stan Gerzofsky (D-Brunswick)
 Janet T. Mills (D-Farmington)
 Roger L. Sherman (R-Hodgdon)*
 Roderick W. Carr (R-Lincoln)
 Brian M. Duprey (R-Hampden)
 Joan Bryant-Deschenes (R-Turner)
 Donna M. Loring (Penobscot Nation)

Labor

William J. Smith, Chair (D-Van Buren)
 Deborah J. Hutton (D-Bowdoinham)
 Paul R. Hatch (D-Skowhegan)
 John L. Patrick (D-Rumford)
 Thomas R. Watson (D-Bath)
 Russell P. Treadwell (R-Carmel)*
 Philip A. Cressey, Jr. (R-Baldwin)
 Robert W. Nutting (R-Oakland)
 Theodore H. Heidrich (R-Oxford)
 Troy D. Jackson (U-Fort Kent)

Legal and Veterans Affairs

Joseph E. Clark, Chair (D-Millinocket)
 John L. Patrick (D-Rumford)
 Patricia A. Blanchette (D-Bangor)
 Marilyn E. Canavan (D-Waterville)
 Rodney C. Jennings (D-Leeds)
 Roger A. Landry (D-Sanford)
 Gary W. Moore (R-Standish)*
 Kevin J. Glynn (R-South Portland)
 Richard B. Brown (R-South Berwick)
 Randy E. Hotham (R-Dixfield)

Marine Resources

Thomas D. Bull, Chair (D-Freeport)
 Nancy B. Sullivan (D-Biddeford)
 Walter E. Ash, Jr. (D-Belfast)
 Edward R. Dugay (D-Cherryfield)
 Leila J. Percy (D-Phippsburg)
 Kevin M. Muse (R-Fryeburg)*
 Deborah K. McNeil (R-Rockland)
 Jeff Kaelin (R-Winterport)
 Leonard Earl Bierman (R-Sorrento)
 Stephen Bowen (R-Rockport)
 Frederick J. Moore III (Passamaquoddy Tribe)

Natural Resources

Theodore Koffman, Chair (D-Bar Harbor)
 Joanne T. Twomey (D-Biddeford)
 Deborah J. Hutton (D-Bowdoinham)
 Elaine Makas (D-Lewiston)
 Thomas B. Saviello (D-Wilton)
 Judd D. Thompson (D-China)
 Robert A. Daigle (R-Arundel)*
 David L. Tobin (R-Windham)
 Henry L. Joy (R-Crystal)
 James D. Annis (R-Dover-Foxcroft)

State and Local Government

Janet L. McLaughlin, Chair (D-Cape Elizabeth)
 George H. Bunker, Jr. (D-Kossuth Township)
 Christopher R. Barstow (D-Gorham)
 Susanne P. Ketterer (D-Madison)
 Edward J. Suslovic (D-Portland)
 Anita Peavey-Haskell (R-Greenbush)*
 Robert H. Crosthwaite (R-Ellsworth)
 Stephen Bowen (R-Rockport)
 Oscar C. Stone (R-Berwick)
 Gary E. Sukeforth (U-Union)

Taxation

David G. Lemoine, Chair (D-Old Orchard Beach)
 Joseph C. Perry (D-Bangor)
 Bernard E. McGowan (D-Pittsfield)
 Deborah L. Simpson (D-Auburn)
 Arthur L. Lerman (D-Augusta)
 Edward J. Suslovic (D-Portland)
 Harold A. Clough (R-Scarborough)*
 Jonathan T. E. Courtney (R-Sanford)
 Earle L. McCormick (R-West Gardiner)
 Joshua A. Tardy (R-Newport)

Transportation

Ronald E. Usher, Chair (D-Westbrook)
 Boyd P. Marley (D-Portland)
 Rosaire "Ross" Paradis, Jr. (D-Frenchville)
 Lisa T. Marraché (D-Waterville)
 Sonya G. Sampson (D-Auburn)
 Terrence P. McKenney (R-Cumberland)*
 Ronald F. Collins (R-Wells)
 Deborah K. McNeil (R-Rockland)

Arlan R. Jodrey (R-Bethel)
William P. Browne (R-Vassalboro)

Utilities and Energy

Lawrence Bliss, Chair (D-South Portland)
Herbert Adams (D-Portland)
Albion D. Goodwin (D-Pembroke)
Peter L. Rines (D-Wiscasset)
Jacqueline A. Lundeen (D-Mars Hill)
Donald P. Berry, Sr. (R-Belmont)*
Philip A. Cressey, Jr. (R-Baldwin)
Kenneth C. Fletcher (R-Winslow)
Stanley A. Moody (R-Manchester)
Maitland E. Richardson (R-Skowhegan)

*Ranking Republican Member

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 6)

STATE OF MAINE

Petition to the 121st Legislature of the State of Maine on the seating of Stanley Moody of Manchester.

TO: The Honorable Millicent MacFarland, Clerk, State of Maine House of Representatives.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Fuller of Manchester, County of Kennebec, and State of Maine.

Petitioner alleges that she was the Democratic candidate for State Representative to the 121st Legislature from District 80 in the November 5, 2002 general election (Election). Petitioner was opposed in the Election by the Republican candidate, Stanley Moody of Manchester.

The Governor certified Stanley Moody as the apparent winner in the Election and a certificate of election was issued to Stanley Moody by the Secretary of State.

Petitioner acknowledges that a recount of the ballots was conducted under the auspices of the Office of the Secretary of State on November 20, 2002, in the City of Augusta. The results of said recount changed the margin of victory for Stanley Moody from two votes to one vote. Additionally, there are 2 contested ballots.

The Petitioner further alleges that at least one "disenfranchised" voter supporting her and willing to attest to his support requested an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk of Manchester and requested that said ballot be sent to him at his address in Portland, Maine. The absentee ballot requested was mistakenly delivered to the home of the requestor in Manchester. Thus, the Manchester voter was denied access to the properly requested ballot and hence unable to cast his vote in the general election. He would attest to the fact that had he been able to vote by absentee ballot, he would have voted for the Petitioner.

The Petitioner asserts that the contested ballots can change the results of the election in District 80 to, at the very least, a tie for the election, necessitating a new election be conducted.

WHEREFORE, your Petitioner prays that the 121st Legislature not seat Stanley Moody at this time. Petitioner urges the House of Representatives to convene a committee to further investigate the issues raised above. After said committee issues its findings, which the Petitioner believes will be in favor of the Petitioner, to act as provided in the Maine Constitution in part third, section 3, and seat Petitioner, Elaine Fuller. By not seating anyone for District 80 at this time, the House of Representatives will preserve the status quo and will allow the process to go forward unencumbered by one candidate being seated. The process as outlined in State statutes may include a "new" election. Such an

election would further ensure that the citizens of District 80 have a full and fair election and that all voters who are entitled to vote in District 80 will have the opportunity to have their vote counted. Dated at Manchester, this 17th day of December 2002.

S/Elaine Fuller

State of Maine

Kennebec, ss. December 17, 2002

Personally appeared the above Elaine Fuller and swore to the truth of the foregoing document,

Before me,

S/Dale F. Thistle, Esq., Bar No. 7483

Law Office of Dale F. Thistle

P.O. Box 160

Newport, ME 04953

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 8)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 13, 2002

Honorable Millicent M. MacFarland

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Clerk MacFarland:

This is to notify you that pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1(J), I have rescinded my appointment of Representative Joan Bryant-Deschenes of Turner to the House Committee on Elections.

I have appointed Representative Roger L. Sherman of Hodgdon to serve on the House Committee on Elections, replacing Representative Joan Bryant-Deschenes.

Sincerely,

S/Patrick Colwell

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 9)

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT
66 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0066**

December 12, 2002

The Honorable Angus S. King, Governor

The Honorable John Baldacci, Governor-elect

The Honorable Beverly C. Daggett, President of the Senate

The Honorable Patrick Colwell, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Greetings,

I am writing pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. §244, which states, in part: If the State Auditor finds in the course of an audit evidences of material weakness, reportable conditions, improper transactions, or of incompetence in keeping accounts or handling funds or of any other improper practice of financial administration, the State Auditor shall report the same to the Governor and the Legislature immediately....If the State Auditor finds evidences of illegal transactions, the State Auditor shall immediately report those transactions both to the Governor and to the Attorney General.

In the course of our audit of the Social Services Block Grant, we discovered that an employee of the Department of Human Services initiated transactions that we consider to be improper. The employee initiated the processing of twenty-seven checks, totaling approximately \$434,000 (\$320,000 of which was from the General Fund), to legitimate service providers who were not owed these particular payments. The checks were written on June 26 and 27, 2001, a few days before the end of the State fiscal year. The stated purpose was to prevent program funds from lapsing to the General Fund and the Block Grant Fund as required. The employee requested that the checks be returned to her rather than sent to the service providers. The employee then held the checks, and deposited them some months later as revenue.

There was no personal gain on the part of the employee. The Office of the Attorney General has determined that no criminal action was taken.

Our concern is not limited to the fact that deliberate, improper transactions were made. It is our understanding that the employee acted with the knowledge or approval of the Director, who is her supervisor. Others knew of the incident after the fact, and did not inform top management. Controls should be designed to prevent such actions, but even the best control can be subverted by someone with the authority to do so.

We are working with the Department of Human Services to resolve this situation and any other issues that we may have. The Department has expressed its willingness to work on this matter, and to correct any insufficiencies in the areas of control, accountability and supervision.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,
S/Gail M. Chase, CIA
State Auditor, State of Maine

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 11)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

TO: Millicent M. MacFarland
Clerk of the House
FROM: S/Patrick Colwell
Speaker of the House
DATE: January 2, 2003
RE: Appointments to the Standing Committees
of the House 121st Legislature

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1(J), I have made the following appointments to the Standing Committees of the House:

Bills in the Second Reading

- Peter L. Rines, Chair (D-Wiscasset)
- Jacqueline R. Norton (D-Bangor)
- Leila J. Percy (D-Phippsburg)
- John F. Piotti (D-Unity)
- Deborah K. McNeil (R-Rockland)
- Donald P. Berry, Sr. (R-Belmont)
- Anita Peavey-Haskell (R-Greenbush)
- Robert A. Berube (R-Lisbon)

Elections

- David G. Lemoine, Chair (D-Old Orchard Beach)
- Matthew Dunlap (D-Old Town)
- William S. Norbert (D-Portland)
- Janet L. McLaughlin (D-Cape Elizabeth)

- Richard W. Rosen (R-Bucksport)
- Joshua A. Tardy (R-Newport)
- S. Peter Mills (R-Cornville)
- Roger L. Sherman (R-Hodgdon)

Engrossed Bills

- Joanne T. Twomey, Chair (D-Biddeford)
- Albion D. Goodwin (D-Pembroke)
- Edward Pellon (D-Machias)
- Sonya G. Sampson (D-Auburn)
- Roderick W. Carr (R-Lincoln)
- Theodore H. Heidrich (R-Oxford)
- Mary Black Andrews (R-York)
- Sarah O. Lewin (R-Eliot)

Ethics

- Patricia A. Blanchette, Chair (D-Bangor)
- Deborah L. Simpson (D-Auburn)
- William M. Earle (D-Damariscotta)
- Janet T. Mills (D-Farmington)
- David L. Tobin (R-Windham)
- Roger L. Sherman (R-Hodgdon)
- Florence T. Young (R-Limestone)
- Stanley A. Moody (R-Manchester)

Leaves of Absence

- Walter A. Wheeler, Sr., Chair (D-Kittery)
- Marilyn E. Canavan (D-Waterville)
- Rosaire "Ross" Paradis, Jr. (D-Frenchville)
- Paul J. Lessard (D-Topsham)
- Eugene L. Churchill (R-Orland)
- Lois A. Snowe-Mello (R-Poland)
- Harold A. Clough (R-Scarborough)
- Gerald M. Davis (R-Falmouth)

Rules and Business of the House

- The Speaker, Ex Officio
- John Richardson (D-Brunswick)
- Joseph Bruno (R-Raymond)
- David E. Bowles (R-Sanford)

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 10)
STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL
SERVICES
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
STATE HOUSE STATION 58
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

Date: December 27, 2002
To: Members of the 121st Maine Legislature
Grant Pennoyer, Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review
From: S/Keith E. Todd, State Budget Officer

Title 5, MRSA, Section 1670 requires each department and agency to submit to the Bureau of the Budget a list of any new laws, regulations or other requirements of the Federal Government that may require the State of Maine to comply with a new Federal mandate in the remainder of the FY02/FY03 biennium or the FY04/FY05 biennium. (New is defined as being any mandate for which the implementation date is September 30, 2002 or later).

Attached please find the report of Federal mandates as submitted from the various state departments and agencies.

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 12)

STATE OF MAINE
Office of the Secretary of State

January 7, 2003

To the Speaker of the House in the One Hundred and Twenty-first Legislature:

I, DAN A. GWADOSKY, Secretary of State, in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Maine, having tabulated the returns of the votes cast for Governor at the General Election held on the fifth day of November in the year two thousand and two;

REPORT AS FOLLOWS; that John E. Baldacci, having received a plurality of the votes cast, appears to have been elected Governor of the State of Maine:

General Election – November 5, 2002

Governor

JOHN E. BALDACCİ
DEMOCRAT

ANDROSCOGGIN	17,064	46.5%
AROOSTOOK	15,785	60.5%
CUMBERLAND	49,900	43.7%
FRANKLIN	5,147	45.4%
HANCOCK	12,132	52.0%
KENNEBEC	22,159	47.8%
KNOX	6,636	40.5%
LINCOLN	6,325	38.7%
OXFORD	9,275	45.0%
PENOBSCOT	31,619	56.7%
PISCATAQUIS	3,583	50.4%
SAGADAHOC	6,186	42.6%
SOMERSET	8,475	46.9%
WALDO	7,002	47.5%
WASHINGTON	7,013	60.0%
YORK	29,878	41.6%
TOTAL	238,179	47.1%

JONATHAN K. CARTER
GREEN INDEPENDENT

ANDROSCOGGIN	3,110	8.5%
AROOSTOOK	1,279	4.9%
CUMBERLAND	12,803	11.2%
FRANKLIN	1,127	9.9%
HANCOCK	2,238	9.6%
KENNEBEC	4,193	9.0%
KNOX	2,184	13.3%
LINCOLN	2,029	12.4%
OXFORD	1,844	8.9%
PENOBSCOT	2,468	4.4%
PISCATAQUIS	362	5.1%
SAGADAHOC	1,762	12.1%
SOMERSET	1,311	7.3%
WALDO	1,575	10.7%
WASHINGTON	556	4.8%
YORK	8,062	11.2%
TOTAL	46,903	9.3%

PETER E. CIANCHETTE
REPUBLICAN

ANDROSCOGGIN	15,069	41.0%
AROOSTOOK	8,401	32.2%
CUMBERLAND	50,095	43.8%
FRANKLIN	4,711	41.6%
HANCOCK	8,600	36.9%
KENNEBEC	19,047	41.1%
KNOX	7,266	44.3%
LINCOLN	7,512	46.0%
OXFORD	8,815	42.8%
PENOBSCOT	20,861	37.4%
PISCATAQUIS	3,045	42.9%
SAGADAHOC	6,253	43.1%
SOMERSET	7,932	43.9%
WALDO	5,944	40.3%
WASHINGTON	3,902	33.4%
YORK	32,043	44.6%
TOTAL	209,496	41.5%

JOHN M. MICHAEL
UNENROLLED

ANDROSCOGGIN	1,492	4.1%
AROOSTOOK	624	2.4%
CUMBERLAND	1,470	1.3%
FRANKLIN	350	3.1%
HANCOCK	366	1.6%
KENNEBEC	978	2.1%
KNOX	304	1.9%
LINCOLN	467	2.9%
OXFORD	681	3.3%
PENOBSCOT	810	1.5%
PISCATAQUIS	116	1.6%
SAGADAHOC	309	2.1%
SOMERSET	355	2.0%
WALDO	233	1.6%
WASHINGTON	219	1.9%
YORK	1,838	2.6%
TOTAL	10,612	2.1%

OTHER

ANDROSCOGGIN	0	0.0%
AROOSTOOK	0	0.0%
CUMBERLAND	1	<0.1%
FRANKLIN	0	0.0%
HANCOCK	0	0.0%
KENNEBEC	0	0.0%
KNOX	0	0.0%
LINCOLN	0	0.0%
OXFORD	0	0.0%
PENOBSCOT	0	0.0%
PISCATAQUIS	0	0.0%
SAGADAHOC	0	0.0%
SOMERSET	0	0.0%
WALDO	0	0.0%
WASHINGTON	0	0.0%
YORK	0	0.0%
TOTAL	1	<0.1%

I, DAN A. GWADOSKY, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast for Governor at the General Election, as reported to me on the returns from the cities, towns and plantations of the State.

S/DAN A. GWADOSKY
Secretary of State

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Amend the Membership of the Revenue Forecasting Committee"
(H.P. 10) (L.D. 3)

Sponsored by Representative BRUNO of Raymond.
Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Extend the Time to Pay a Premium to the Insured"
(H.P. 9) (L.D. 2)
Sponsored by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Pertaining to Notice of Nonrenewal of an Automobile Insurance Policy"
(H.P. 12) (L.D. 5)
Sponsored by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.
Committee on **BANKING AND INSURANCE** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **BANKING AND INSURANCE** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Change the Membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics"
(H.P. 15) (L.D. 8)
Sponsored by Representative YOUNG of Limestone.
Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect the Waters of the Saco River"
(H.P. 11) (L.D. 4)
Sponsored by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.
Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Child Labor Laws"
(H.P. 13) (L.D. 6)
Sponsored by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.
Committee on **LABOR** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Property Tax Exemption for Veterans"
(H.P. 8) (L.D. 1)

Sponsored by Representative PINEAU of Jay.
Committee on **TAXATION** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Funding of the North Jay Water District" (EMERGENCY)
(H.P. 14) (L.D. 7)
Sponsored by Representative PINEAU of Jay.
Committee on **UTILITIES AND ENERGY** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **UTILITIES AND ENERGY** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator Treat of Kennebec of that body, proposing a Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held at 6:30 o'clock in the evening at the Augusta Civic Center for the purpose of administering to the Honorable JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI, Governor-elect, the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties and to receive such communication as he may be pleased to make.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 6:30 o'clock in the evening at the Augusta Civic Center and the Speaker appointed Representative RICHARDSON of Brunswick to convey this message to the Senate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The Following Communication: (H.C. 7)
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

January 8, 2003
Millicent M. MacFarland
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Madam Clerk:

In compliance with the directive of the House, enclosed herewith in the form of an Order is the Report of the House Committee on Elections regarding the election in House District 80.
Sincerely,
S/David G. Lemoine, Old Orchard Beach
Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

On motion of Representative LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach, the following House Order: (H.O. 9)
WHEREAS, the petition received from Elaine Fuller contesting the election results in House District 80 has now been withdrawn by the same Elaine Fuller, now, therefore, be it
ORDERED, that Stanley A. Moody be seated in the House as the duly elected Representative of House District 80.
READ and PASSED.

**SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

Subsequently, Representative RICHARDSON reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

At this point the Speaker appointed the following members to the Joint Select Committee on the Gubernatorial Vote on the part of the House:

Representative McLAUGHLIN of Cape Elizabeth
Representative BUNKER of Kossuth Township
Representative BARSTOW of Gorham
Representative KETTERER of Madison
Representative SUSLOVIC of Portland
Representative PEAVEY-HASKELL of Greenbush
Representative CROSTHWAITE of Ellsworth
Representative BOWEN of Rockport
Representative STONE of Berwick
Representative SUKEFORTH of Union

At this point the Speaker appointed to the Committee to wait upon the Honorable JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI, and inform him he has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, the following members on the part of the House:

Representative COWGER of Hallowell
Representative GAGNE-FRIEL of Buckfield
Representative GOODWIN of Pembroke
Representative MAILHOT of Lewiston
Representative BERRY of Belmont
Representative HONEY of Boothbay
Representative O'BRIEN of Augusta
Representative MOORE of the Passamaquoddy Tribe

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 13)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the returns of votes for the Governor, given in the several cities, towns and plantations of the State for the political years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, be referred to a Joint Select Committee of seven on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 14)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that a Committee of three on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join, be appointed to wait upon the Honorable John Elias Baldacci and inform him that he has been duly elected Governor of the State of Maine for the political years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 13)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

January 8, 2003

Honorable Millicent M. MacFarland
Clerk of the House
121st Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Madam Clerk:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (H), I have appointed Representative Patricia A. Blanchette of Bangor to serve as Speaker Pro Tem when the House reconvenes in the House Chamber following the Joint Convention for the Inauguration of the Governor.

Sincerely,
S/Patrick Colwell
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

Subsequently, Representative COWGER reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged.

The House recessed until the Sound of the Bell.

(After Recess - At the Civic Center)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

At this point, a Joint Convention was formed at the Augusta Civic Center.

Augusta Civic Center

Interlude by 195th US Army Band.

Pre-Inaugural Concert by the Bangor High School Band.

The House was called to order by Speaker Colwell.

At this point, the Senate entered the auditorium and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Beverly C. Daggett, in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

On a motion by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec, it was ORDERED, ordered, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court; the Chief Justice and Justices of the Maine Superior Court; the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court; and the Federal Judges, inviting them to attend the Convention which has been convened for the purpose of administering to the Honorable John Elias Baldacci, Governor-elect, the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

The Chair will appoint the following:

The Sen. from Cumberland, Sen. Pendleton
The Sen. from Penobscot, Sen. Cathcart
The Sen. from Franklin, Sen. Woodcock
The Rep. from Portland, Rep. Norbert
The Rep. from Freeport, Rep. Bull
The Rep. from Auburn, Rep. Simpson
The Rep. from Caribou, Rep. Bennett
The Rep. from Brunswick, Rep. Gerzofsky
The Rep. from Farmington, Rep. Mills
The Rep. from Hodgdon, Rep. Sherman
The Rep. from Lincoln, Rep. Carr
The Rep. from Hampden, Rep. Duprey
The Rep. from Turner, Rep. Bryant-Deschenes
The Rep. from the Penobscot Nation, Rep. Loring

Subsequently, Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which we were charged and are pleased to report that the Honorable Members of the Judiciary will attend forthwith.

At this point, the National Guard escorted the Judiciary to their seats.

At this point the Chair recognized Secretary of State Gwadosky, Amy Weston and Baron Wormser. The Chair also recognizes the Very Reverend Frank J. Murray, Rabbi Harry Z. Sky, Reuben "Butch" Phillips, Penobscot Elder and Kelly Demmons of the Penobscot Nation. Also, former Governors of the State of Maine, the Honorable Kenneth M. Curtis and the Honorable Joseph E. Brennan.

The Chair is pleased to welcome to the Joint Convention the members of the Governor's family: First Lady, Karen Baldacci and their son, Jack Baldacci.

On a motion by Senator TREAT of Kennebec, it was ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable John Elias Baldacci, Governor-elect, and inform him that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to administer to him the oaths required by the constitution to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties and receive such communication as he may be pleased to make.

The Chair will appoint the following:

The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator Cathcart
The Sen. from Piscataquis, Senator Davis
The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator Mitchell
The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator Sawyer
The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator Youngblood
The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator Stanley
The Rep. from Kossuth Township, Rep. Bunker

The Rep. from Millinocket, Rep. Clark
The Rep. from old town, Rep. Dunlap
The Rep. from Bangor, Rep. Perry
The Rep. from Bangor, Rep. Blanchette
The Rep. from Bangor, Rep. Norton
The Rep. from Orono, Rep. Thomas
The Rep. from Bangor, Rep. Faircloth
The Rep. from Medway, Rep. Duprey
The Rep. from Crystal, Rep. Joy
The Rep. from Dexter, Rep. Tobin
The Rep. from Carmel, Rep. Treadwell
The Rep. from Lincoln, Rep. Carr
The Rep. from Bucksport, Rep. Rosen
The Rep. from Dover-Foxcroft, Rep. Annis
The Rep. from Hampden, Rep. Duprey
The Rep. from Holden, Rep. Ledwin
The Rep. from Greenbush, Rep. Peavey-Haskell
The Rep. from Ellsworth, Rep. Crosthwaite
The Rep. from Levant, Rep. Greeley
The Rep. from Brewer, Rep. Rogers
The Rep. from Newport, Rep. Tardy
The Rep. from the Penobscot Nation, Rep. Loring

Subsequently, Senator CATHCART of Penobscot, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and that the Honorable John Elias Baldacci, Governor-elect, will attend forthwith.

At this point, the Chair is pleased to welcome to the Joint Convention the Honorable John Elias Baldacci, who is escorted by Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley and Adjutant General Tinkham.

The Colors were presented by the Maine National Guard.

The National Anthem, "Star Spangled Banner" was sung by Amy Weston.

The Invocation was given by Very Reverend Frank J. Murray.

A poem was read by Baron Wormser, Maine's poet laureate, of Hallowell.

A traditional Native American Smudging Ceremony was performed by Reuben "Butch" Phillips, Penobscot elder, accompanied by Chief Barry Dana for the Penobscot Nation.

Thereupon, the Governor-elect, John Elias Baldacci, before the presiding officer of the Joint Convention, the Honorable Beverly C. Daggett, in the presence of both branches of the Legislature and the Justices, took and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution (wife, Karen and son, Jack held the Bible) to qualify him to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

I, JOHN ELIAS BALDACCII, DO SWEAR, THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THIS STATE, SO LONG AS I SHALL CONTINUE A CITIZEN THEREOF. SO HELP ME GOD.

I, JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI, DO SWEAR, THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES, THE DUTIES INCUMBENT ON ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MAINE, ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE. SO HELP ME GOD.

The Chair of the Convention then called upon the Secretary of State, Dan A. Gwadosky, to read the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

The votes given on the fifth day of November last, in the cities, towns and plantations of the State of Maine for Governor, the returns of which have been made to the Office of the Secretary of State, having been examined and counted by the Legislature which has declared that a plurality thereof was given to John Elias Baldacci, that he is duly elected and that he, having in the presence of the two branches of the Legislature in Convention assembled, taken and subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify him to discharge the duties of that office. I, therefore, declare and make known to all persons who are in the exercise of any public trust in this state, as well as all good citizens thereof, that effective at midnight John Elias Baldacci is Governor and Commander-In-Chief of the State of Maine, and that due obedience should be rendered to all his acts and commands as such.

GOD SAVE THE STATE OF MAINE

The Chair of the Convention then presented the Honorable Governor of the Great State of Maine, John Elias Baldacci, to the Convention, amid applause, the audience rising.

Governor **BALDACCI**: Madam President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislature, Governor Curtis, Governor Brennan, distinguished guests, Chief Saufley and representatives of the court.

More than 200 years ago, when Thomas Jefferson delivered his first inaugural address, he came before the American people and said, "the task is above my talents." He approached it, he said, "with those anxious and awful premonitions which the greatness of the charge and the weakness of my powers so justly inspire."

I never thought I would say this, but I finally have something in common with Thomas Jefferson.

Tonight, I stand before the people of Maine, grateful for the faith you've shown in me, humbled by the enormous task before us, and determined not only to serve the people of Maine but to help move our state toward greatness.

Eight years ago when Governor King was standing here, there was no such thing as e-mail in state government. Surfing the web was not yet part of our lexicon. And you could actually go to the movies or enjoy a meal at a restaurant without someone's cell phone going off. Those were the days.

But now, one of the fastest growing private companies in the country, ATX, is employing more than 200 people to make computer software for 40,000 customers in the accounting industry worldwide. Their headquarters isn't in Silicon Valley; it's in Aroostook County on Sweden Street in downtown Caribou.

Today, you can buy a hunting license, pay a parking ticket and find out what your state representative is up to without ever leaving your home, thanks to high-speed internet access.

And today, we have laptop computers in Maine classrooms, unlocking the imaginations of thousands of school children and earning Maine prominence and prestige around the world.

For eight years, Governor King's dedication, inspiration and loyal service to Maine and its people, have really made a difference. He and Mary have extended every courtesy to Karen, Jack and I. Please join me in thanking Gov. Angus King, Mary and his family.

As Jefferson suggested, the greatness of the charge is almost overwhelming. Despite the progress we have made, Maine faces many challenges.

Our tax system is out of date and out of line with the meager incomes of so many Maine people.

State spending is out of line with state revenues creating a billion dollar deficit. This huge imbalance requires immediate and serious attention.

The high cost of health care coverage has become a crushing burden, creating a drag on our economy, threatening businesses small and large and leaving many families without adequate protection from a catastrophic illness or accident.

Against this backdrop, young people are going out-of-state, abandoning their place of birth for opportunities elsewhere, taking their talents, their hopes and their dreams with them and leaving Maine a graying state sapped of the vitality, the spirit and entrepreneur abilities that the ambitions of youth provide.

All of this must change.

Just as it has during the past eight years, the pace of technology will continue to move swiftly forward in the years ahead, providing a solid foundation for economic growth. But in the next four years, the true pace of progress will be measured by the quality of life we can help provide Maine people.

It will be measured by increasing incomes; more and better jobs; affordable health care; more high school graduates going on to college; and a continued respect for the environment.

It will be measured by whether we've given Maine people a reason to have hope. Our state can become a leader in providing opportunities in jobs, business, and health while preserving and protecting our natural resources.

As I traveled around this state during the campaign, something occurred to me that probably should be obvious but so many of us forget: earning a living in Maine is not easy.

For a large number of people, perhaps the majority, their livelihoods are closely tied to our natural resources - our forests, the ocean, our farmland. The fortunes of tourism, the ski and snowmobile industries rise and fall on the natural forces of the weather, something the government will never be able influence. Even the lawyer walking down Exchange Street should probably stop to realize that one out of every four dollars in his pocket could be traced to Maine's natural resource-based industries. Living off the land is still very much alive here in Maine, and always will be. But in the next century, more and more of our workers will have to find jobs in a new economy that will require new and different skills. For many, this will be a major change, but if Maine is to be successful, it's a change we must embrace.

It's true that regional differences abound. They always have and always will. We hear about the two Maines, but there are actually many Maines - north and south; east and west; rural and urban; coastal and inland, Democrat and Republican, Green and Independent.

But it's our similarities, not our differences, that define us. Nearly all of us came here as immigrants. We all want good schools, safe communities, and a promising future for our children and their children.

The set of values we share are the same, whether you live in Kittery or Madawaska, Calais or Fort Kent, Lewiston or Lubec. The values of family and community, with tolerance and neighborliness, with hard work and respect for nature, these are universal throughout Maine.

These qualities and values are tested from time to time, and they will be in just the next few days. I want to make it very clear, in case there is any question: Maine is a lot of things, but it is not nor will it ever be a haven or a headquarters for hate groups and racist organizations. These groups do not reflect the principles and values of Maine, and I urge all Mainers to firmly embrace diversity and tolerance and oppose bigotry and hatred.

There is something else that every one of us has in common that helps define who we are: we live in Maine because we choose to live in Maine. We could live anywhere, but who would want to?

We live in Maine despite the hardships, despite the challenges, despite the burdens, despite the weather. We're hardscrabble people, resilient, resourceful. And that is our strength.

A billion dollar deficit IS a big problem, but it's nothing compared to the talents, the ingenuity and the energy of a million Maine people.

For those of us in public life, the challenge we face is making a real difference in the lives of those million Maine people.

We tend to think of government as stately buildings, legislative sessions, programs and policies. In Augusta and in Washington we get so wrapped up in arcane debates, bitter feuds and negative campaigns, and forget that so much of it means so little to so many.

The task ahead of us is to show Maine people that we're with them, that we can all work together - Democrats, Republicans, Greens and Independents - to reach out to those people working in the woods, on the oceans, on our farms and make state government a positive, relevant force. Whether you work in a paper mill, own your own business, stay at home to care for your children, or are just getting ready to go on to college, state government can touch and improve your lives.

Government will never solve all of our problems. It's true we can't do everything. But we can't afford to do nothing.

And it's more than just the ups and downs of business, the economy, profit and loss, numbers on a spreadsheet. It's people. It's families. It's community.

Lowering the tax burden is an important goal, sure, but so is lifting the spirits of Maine people.

Just as it is important to ask ourselves "Can we compete," it is equally important to ask, "Can we dream?" So, tonight, let us begin.

Our goal, starting right now, is to balance the state budget and grow our economy. That's my economic plan.

I'm not going to stand here and say that it's going to be easy to solve the state's budget problems. The size and severity of the budget deficit defies a simple and painless solution. A tax increase is definitely not the answer, but neither is a big-time gambling casino. Both of these are shortsighted, short-term remedies that in the end will only make our problems worse.

We will solve the budget crisis, and I have asked Maine people to log on to our website and give us their ideas. In the next few weeks, I intend to submit a plan to deal with Maine's fiscal problems and balance the state budget without a tax increase.

But we first need to look at our budget situation another way. It is an enormous problem, but it's also an enormous opportunity.

What the situation tells us is that we have to change. When it comes to state spending, it can no longer be business as usual. The boom-and-bust cycles of state spending and growth have been a roller coaster ride, and it's time to get off.

It requires an overall change in state government, how it's organized, how it delivers services, and how it spends your

money. We need to be sure that maximum resources are devoted to actual service and not multiple layers of bureaucracy. We need to be sure that the people most in need of service get it. And, we need to be sure that the people who actually deliver the service, state workers and community organizations, are supported.

Progress has been made toward making government more effective and more efficient. Now, those efforts must intensify. In my Administration silos between state agencies will come down, and common sense will prevail. One person or one family shouldn't have to deal with five case managers to get help from one state agency.

As a first step, I will file legislation to merge the Department of Human Services and the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services into one state agency with a Division of Children and Families. This will make it easier for people to obtain service through a "one stop" approach. It will reduce administration overload on community organizations as they deal with multiple bureaucracies to serve the same client. And, it will increase accountability both at the state and local level.

To be successful in this, we will reach out in partnership to the non-profit organizations that are working in many important areas. Whether in disability, domestic abuse, child abuse and neglect, housing or mental health, we value your partnership and your suggestions as we work together to leverage new resources and opportunities.

I want this merger to serve as a model for all state agencies. But, we can't stop there. Our fiscal problems don't end in Augusta. They effect government at every level - our towns, cities and county governments, our school districts and water districts, our police and fire departments. No one should sit and wait for Augusta alone to solve the state's tax and budget problems, including the mounting property tax burden, because the solution is right there in your own community. Tonight, I am calling on municipal and county officials, school board members and community leaders to help lead the way out of our budget difficulties. It will require creativity, resolve and leadership, but it can be done.

Take a look at what's happening in Cumberland County. Five towns have begun discussions over forming a joint police department, one chief, one dispatch center, fewer police cars, better protection, and a lot less money for property taxpayers. Take a look at what they are doing in Hermon. School students and staff have developed a community internet network called HermonNet that serves not only the schools but businesses and homes in the community, without adding to the tax burden. Take a look at what's happening in Lewiston and Auburn. The two cities now have more than a dozen intergovernmental agreements to jointly deal with economic development and other issues.

This is as radical a shift in government planning as the decision by Maine to separate from Massachusetts. This is a wholesale reinvention of government. But it's the kind of thinking we need if we are going to solve, once and for all, Maine's chronic budgetary problems and offer real relief to property taxpayers.

We need to focus first on the areas of greatest spending. Therefore, I will sign an executive order to create a task force that will devise and implement my plan to produce administrative savings in education funding, at the state, regional and local levels.

The task force will provide incentives in the state budget to redirect resources from administration to instruction. This isn't about consolidating schools. It is about making more dollars available for the classroom, for our students. We can't keep

going to the property taxpayers year after year to pay for the growing cost of education. We have to find cost savings and efficiencies if we are to continue.

And tonight, I am instructing my cabinet to apply this kind of thinking to all of their operations, to turn their departments upside down in search of efficiencies and ways to consolidate services. If there is a better, more cost efficient way to do business, even if it means eliminating or merging state departments or bureaus, I want to know about it. The goal is not to curtail services; the goal is to deliver services more efficiently. It can be done. It must be done. And we're going to do it.

By working together, we can solve the state's current budget crisis. As painful as it will be, we will get through it, and we'll come out of it stronger than we were with a new structure and a renewed purpose for serving the people of Maine.

But we cannot let the temporary budget troubles divert our attention from the bigger challenge of strengthening Maine's economy. In the coming weeks, I will be putting forth a detailed economic strategy. It will include "Pine Tree" opportunity zones to spur economic development in areas of Maine that really need it; a doubling of our investment in research and development to support emerging industries like biomedical research at Jackson Lab; one-stop shopping for business and trade information; and a more consolidated, consistent emphasis on regional and international opportunities with the other New England states and the maritime provinces of Canada.

I will also convene a Blaine House Conference on our Natural Resource-based Industries, to discuss and determine their status, their future and ways they can be strengthened as Maine looks to new industries as well.

I'm also proud to announce that my wife, Karen, as part of her duties as Maine's First Lady, will focus on the critical issues of childhood literacy and nutrition. As a teacher and a dietician, she is particularly well qualified to help raise awareness and address these issues, because we can't forget that over the long term, education and the skill level of Maine workers and citizens is the most important factor of sustainable economic growth and community health.

While Maine has earned recognition for one of the best K-12 education systems in the nation, our postsecondary performance lags: too many students can't afford college, the number of our citizens who hold bachelor's degrees is below the New England average, and the number of Maine high school students going on to college is disappointing, to say the least.

One of the ways we will address this is by transforming the state's technical colleges into a true Community College System offering a full range of programs and making the best use of all our existing resources, including the University campuses and K-12 schools. To enhance higher education opportunities in Maine, our public higher education systems need to work collaboratively and efficiently. I have discussed this with the Chancellor of the University System and the President of the Technical College System, both of whom share this belief.

And next month, I will join with business and community leaders to announce a new initiative called the Compact for Maine's Future that will begin to change the expectations, attitudes and aspirations of Maine people about higher education. The Compact for Maine's Future is a commitment to Maine citizens that we will be among the best educated in the world.

But two areas related to economic development will get my immediate attention.

First, health care. The time for talk is over. It's time for action. The growing cost of health care is at the root of the state's financial problems, and is affecting our economy in ways we may not even realize. How many workers won't get a raise this year

because their employer has to pay more for health insurance? How many jobs could be added to our economy if the cost of health care wasn't so high? We spend over \$5 billion a year in health care, but nearly one in ten of us have no health insurance at all. Thousands of Maine people, young and old, are living in fear that a debilitating injury or illness will wipe them out because they don't have coverage; thousands more are one rate hike away from losing theirs.

Tomorrow, I will sign an Executive Order to establish a Governor's Office of Health Care Policy and Finance. This office will bring together the human and physical resources now dispersed throughout state government into a strategic, critical alliance to develop a comprehensive health policy and a plan to provide affordable, quality health care for every man, woman and child in the State of Maine.

Maine is not alone in this problem, but we do not have the luxury of time to wait a solution from away. As a state, as a government, we have as much responsibility to protect people's access to health care as we do to protect them from the dangers of international terrorism, and we must confront the problem with just as much sustained energy and focus.

The Office of Health Care Policy and Finance is not going to get bogged down in endless debates over whether health care is a right or a privilege, or whether we should have a single payer system or something else. Frankly, I'm pretty tired of these debates. What the people of this state need, and deserve, is a solution, a plan that will work and that we can afford. The Office of Health Care Policy and Finance will help me craft such a plan that I can present to the Legislature this year.

Make no mistake, we are in the early stages of a health care financing crisis that will only get worse without strategic action. I can't promise a miracle. But I do promise to make sure that every possible resource in state government, with help from the private sector, will be devoted to addressing this problem. All Maine people deserve affordable, quality health care. But unless we act now, hard working Mainers, and responsible employers, will continue to struggle to maintain coverage. The sooner we rein-in the high cost of health care, the sooner we can put more Maine people to work in good paying jobs and get our economy moving.

Second, and perhaps most important, I want to address our young people.

According to the most recent census, Maine is losing its youth. Young people between the ages of 20 and 34 are leaving the state in very large numbers: between 1990 and 2000, there was a statewide decline of 22 percent among this population. In some towns, the figure is over 40 percent.

Why is this a concern? In just 20 years if trends continue, Maine will have more people over the age of 65 than under the age of 20. As we spend more and more to care for our elderly citizens, we will have less and less to take care of our schools and roads, the environment, housing and health care. With an aging population, it will be harder and harder to attract industries to Maine if they know they'll have to find their workers somewhere else.

Consider this: the only reason Microsoft is in Washington State is because that's where Bill Gates happened to live. How do we know the next Bill Gates isn't sitting in front of a laptop computer at a Maine middle school right now? Why should we lose him or her to another state just because Maine doesn't offer the cultural and economic diversity he or she craves?

For too many young people, Maine is on the Move means a U-Haul loaded with dorm furniture heading out of state. This has to change.

I propose to hold a Youth Summit that will bring together some of our youngest public servants, students and entrepreneurs to examine why young people are leaving our state and what we can do to bring them back. I want this group to hear from young people, business owners, elderly citizens and recent immigrants to find out how we can strengthen the economic and social capital of this state so Maine can offer them attractive opportunities and enjoy the benefits of their ingenuity and talent. I want this summit to lead to a permanent working group on Maine Youth that will advise my administration on ways to keep young people in Maine and bring those who have left back to our state.

We need to send a clear message to the young people who have left: come home. Come home to the state where you were born. We need your energy, your talents and your skills to create opportunity and help move Maine into the 21st Century.

As you can see, we have a lot of work ahead of us. But we can only do it if we work together, in a true bipartisan spirit. It's been a long time since the state has had a Democratic Governor and a Democratic Legislature. But that gives me neither the license nor the liberty to move forward on any of my proposals without the involvement of the other parties. That includes the inaugural ball tomorrow night, which you're all invited to.

And so I'm asking the leaders of both parties to join with me to work not for partisan interests, not for special interests, but for the interests of all the citizens of Maine. Together, let's make the people of Maine proud.

This was the first election held in the 21st Century. Everyone who has stood here to take this oath and assume the tremendous responsibility of being governor of Maine has talked about how we live in a special time in history. They all believed it, and every one of them was right. Because life is special, and Maine is special, and our time here is so short.

Tonight I pledge to the people in this room and to those listening at home, to do everything I can to make my time in office special to the people of Maine. The task before us may be above

the talents of any one individual, but it is not above the combined talents of Maine and its people.

Tonight, I'm asking all of you to join with me, to work together, to help make this state an even better place to live, to work, and to raise a family, to help build the kind of state and community that moves Maine toward greatness.

God bless you all. God bless the State of Maine and good night.

At the conclusion of the address, Benediction was given by Rabbi Paul F. Cohen.

The Governor then withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which this Convention was assembled, having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

The House then retired to its Chamber at the State House.

(After the Joint Convention.)

Representative BLANCHETTE of Bangor assumed the Chair.

The House was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.

On motion of Representative RICHARDSON of Skowhegan, the House adjourned at 8:45 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 9, 2003.