



Senator Shenna Bellows
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Dear Friends,

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Senator. We are living in hard times, but we have seen neighbors coming together to help neighbors. We have seen the worst in recent months, but we have also seen the best in people working so hard to keep Mainers safe. I am proud to be your voice in the Maine Senate, and I promise to continue working hard on your behalf. Together, we can help each other get through this.

One of the keys to our success in this crisis and before was restoring a spirit of civility and respect at the Maine Legislature. For the first time in a long time, Democrats, Republicans and Independents sat together beside each other instead of being divided by partisan aisles, and it made a difference. We did some of our best work together to respond to the coronavirus emergency and to support our communities. Many of the laws we passed this year were unanimous.

From the beginning of my time in the legislature, I have worked hard to get property tax relief for taxpayers, and I'm pleased that we raised the Homestead Exemption to \$25,000 starting in 2020 to help reduce your property tax burden. Do you take advantage of the Homestead Exemption? Check with your town office to make sure. We also expanded the Property Tax Fairness Credit, increased revenue sharing, allocated \$111 million in new education funding for K-12 statewide and added to the Rainy Day Fund, and we did it all without raising income taxes.

We prioritized Maine's children, seniors and people with disabilities during and before the crisis. I am particularly proud of the work we did to expand access to school meals programs including passing a law that I sponsored to create an online registration system for school meals as well as funding for school breakfast programs. While schools were closed, we were able to get meals in the hands of kids who needed them. I was also proud that my bill to raise home care rates was included in the final emergency budget package.

There will be a lot of work ahead to restore and rebuild our public health infrastructure and our economy. Please share your ideas and thoughts about the future with me. You can reach me at (207) 776-5404, or you can email me any time at Shenna.Bellows@legislature.maine.gov. I also encourage you to visit www.mainesenate.org to sign up to receive my regular legislative updates.

I look forward to staying in touch. Thank you for the honor of serving you.

Take care,

Shenna Bellows

Shenna Bellows
State Senator