

Diane Vernesoni  
topsham  
LD 7

I am urging you to vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD7, An Act to increase the Homestead Property Exemption for residents 65 years of age or older. As a 71-year-old lifetime resident of Maine, living in a very high taxation area of Maine, Topsham, I am astounded by how much my taxes have gone up over the last 20 years. When I moved to Topsham in 2005, my taxes were \$2,255. They are now \$8,089. That's an almost 400% increase over 20 years. And it would be higher, if I didn't already have the \$25,000 Homestead Credit. I am 71 years old divorcee living on a very small social security income due to staying home to care for my children while they were growing up. My heating and electricity are outrageous due to the loss of hydro energy from Quebec and our long winters. It is a hardship for many elderly Mainers to decide whether to eat or have heat. I urge you to help out by voting to PASS LD7. Thank you for your service to our state.