



**BATH**  
MAINE *City of Ships*

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**Testimony in support of LD 1112, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Requiring Not Less Than 90 Percent State Reimbursement for Residential Real Estate Property Tax Exemptions and to Establish a Minimum Homestead Exemption (April 2, 2025)**

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and members of the Taxation Committee, my name is Marc Meyers and I am City Manager for the City of Bath, located in Sagadahoc County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for your consideration.

This resolution will send forward a measure to voters to establish minimum in the State Constitution for the reimbursement for residential real estate exemptions, such as homestead, and municipal revenue sharing. There are nearly 30 bills submitted to the legislature this session with “property tax” in the title, but no single measure could benefit homeowners in the state more than advancing this initiative. The revenue sharing program directly reduces property taxes raised. The homestead exemption shifts tax burden from homeowners.

This resolution will allow voters to decide whether to guarantee acceptable minimums, provide stability and certainty in the future of these sources of municipal revenue and continue to provide the legislature with the flexibility to be more generous in the future.

Bath receives more than \$2,000,000 in municipal revenue sharing and more than \$500,000 in Homestead Exemption reimbursement – this is significant funding for the City. Bath and other municipalities have been fortunate that revenue sharing has been funded to 5% and the Homestead Exemption reimbursement is strong (76%), but still not fully reimbursed. These funding sources could change with each budget approval and municipalities every budget season. Any loss of revenue for municipalities at the state level increases the mil rate and affects residential property taxpayers.

I hope that in asking to amend the state’s constitution underscores the importance of this action to residential property taxpayers and municipalities. This measure will provide Maine voters the opportunity to decide whether they want to remove financial uncertainty of state revenue from municipal budgets.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of LD 1112, *RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Requiring Not Less Than 90 Percent State Reimbursement for Residential Real Estate Property Tax Exemptions and to Establish a Minimum Homestead Exemption.*