



Marianne Moore
Senator, District 6

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

LD 1542 – An Act to Amend the Membership of the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee

Good morning, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Marianne Moore. I proudly represent Senate District 6 which includes all of Washington County and 16 Communities in Eastern Hancock County as well.

I'm here to introduce LD1542 – *An Act to Amend the Membership of the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee*.

To provide a little background, Washington County (WC) has three (3) Commissioner Districts. By statute, the WC Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) consists of at least three (3) municipal officers from each district "unless the municipal officers of a district decide that another person from that district would be more qualified" i.e. a Finance Director. Each serves a 3-year term. Additionally, the statute includes one WC legislative delegate, selected annually by the WC Delegation. Prior to 2019, the legislative delegate was a voting member of the WC BAC. This resulted in the total number of available votes for a budget of ten (10), obviously an even number. I believe Representative Will Tuell served this role during his initial tenure in the House. 🙄

Apparently, this even number didn't pose a problem until a version of the County Budget became somewhat debatable and resulted in a 5 to 5 vote, failing passage thus the introduction of legislation changing the legislative delegate to a non-voting member to bring the voting numbers to an odd ratio.

Since I was elected in 2019, I have served on the WC BAC not necessarily "elected" but more "in the absence of any other 'volunteer'" 🙄. While I have attempted to attend most of the meetings and am able to ask questions, make comments, etc., it is very frustrating not to be able to vote on the budget especially when we saw an increase of 21.96% this year. While I understand why the statute was changed, I have submitted this bill to make changes to the statute regarding the membership of the WC Budget Advisory Committee.

The first portion of the bill firms up the selection of the WC legislative delegate, patterning the wording similar to what was approved for Hancock County's Budget Advisory Committee in LD893 in 2023. It requires the Washington County legislative delegation to select by majority vote, by October 15, 2025, and by October 15th of every odd-numbered year thereafter, one member of the delegation who resides in Washington County to serve on the budget advisory committee for a 2-year term as a **VOTING** member.

The second portion of the bill importantly adds an additional member to the WC BAC, representing the Unorganized Territories (UT) of WC, who would serve a 3-year term similar to the municipal members of the Budget Committee.

Besides bringing the membership numbers to eleven (11), more importantly, this gives a voice to the 35 UTs in the County. Currently they are represented by a "Supervisor" in the County Government, reporting to the Commissioners. Their portion of the overall County Budget is the largest contributor of close to 10% based on their total property valuations. The next closest municipality is Baileyville, with the Woodland Mill and St. Croix Tissue Plant, at 7.5%. See the attached Proposed Tax by Town for the year 2025.

Statistically, the UTs are the single biggest taxpayers in the county, and, yet, they have no direct representation on the Budget Committee other than the commissioners who act based on the recommendation of the Budget Committee. Why shouldn't the largest contributing group have a say in the final budget spending numbers for the County?

I ask for your support of this bill and would be happy to answer any questions you might have!

Thank you!

Washington County Commissioner Districts:

District One: Alexander, Baileyville, Baring Plantation, Beddington, Calais, Charlotte, Cooper, Crawford, Danforth, Deblois, Grand Lake Stream Plantation, Marshfield, Meddybemps, Northfield, Passamaquoddy Indian Township Reserv., Princeton, Robbinston, Talmadge, Topsfield, Vanceboro, Waite, Wesley, Whitneyville, Unorganized Territory of North Washington County

District Two: Cutler, Dennysville, East Machias, Eastport, Lubec, Machias, Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point Reserv., Pembroke, Perry, Whiting, Unorganized Territory of East Central Washington County

District Three: Addison, Beals, Cherryfield, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Harrington, Jonesboro, Jonesport, Machiasport, Milbridge, Roque Bluffs, Steuben.

COUNTY TAX FOR 2025

The following is a list of the assessments upon the estates of the municipalities and upon the Unorganized Territories in the County of Washington, with their due proportion of the total amount to be raised, which is \$9,925,871 the sum as granted by resolve of the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee and the Washington County Commissioners being \$9,876,489.00 plus an overlay added by the County of Washington being \$49,382.45 and the tax rate being 0.00175418342 per dollar, as fixed by the Washington County Commissioners on January 09, 2025.

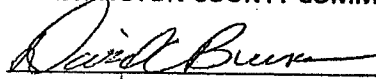
| Municipality | 2025 State Valuation | | 2025 Mill Rate | | 2025 Tax (Rounded to nearest whole dollar) |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------|---|---|
| Addison | \$230,100,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$403,638 |
| Alexander | \$84,900,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$148,930 |
| Baileyville | \$405,100,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$710,620 |
| Baring Plantation | \$18,950,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$33,242 |
| Beals | \$130,900,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$229,623 |
| Beddington | \$69,150,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$121,302 |
| Calais | \$269,800,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$473,279 |
| Charlotte | \$51,450,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$90,253 |
| Cherryfield | \$156,150,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$273,916 |
| Columbia | \$67,600,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$118,583 |
| Columbia Falls | \$69,550,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$122,003 |
| Cooper | \$35,600,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$62,449 |
| Crawford | \$23,300,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$40,872 |
| Cutler | \$106,900,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$187,522 |
| Danforth | \$100,400,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$176,120 |
| Deblois | \$45,700,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$80,166 |
| Dennysville | \$24,100,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$42,276 |
| East Machias | \$148,850,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$261,110 |
| Eastport | \$228,550,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$400,919 |
| Grand Lake Stream Plantation | \$58,750,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$103,058 |
| Harrington | \$190,950,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$334,961 |
| Jonesboro | \$86,650,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$152,000 |
| Jonesport | \$265,300,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$465,385 |
| Lubec | \$299,550,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$525,466 |
| Machias | \$222,200,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$389,780 |
| Machiasport | \$228,600,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$401,006 |
| Marshfield | \$55,450,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$97,269 |
| Meddybemps | \$39,500,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$69,290 |
| Milbridge | \$305,600,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$536,078 |
| Northfield | \$69,950,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$122,705 |
| Pembroke | \$113,800,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$199,626 |
| Perry | \$149,550,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$262,338 |

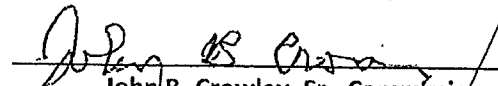
| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------|---|--------------------|
| Princeton | \$79,600,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$139,633 |
| Robbinston | \$67,000,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$117,530 |
| Roque Bluffs | \$124,000,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$217,519 |
| Steuben | \$282,900,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$496,259 |
| Talmadge | \$8,000,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$14,033 |
| Topsfield | \$26,050,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$45,696 |
| Vanceboro | \$11,200,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$19,647 |
| Waite | \$10,450,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$18,331 |
| Wesley | \$30,550,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$53,590 |
| Whiting | \$116,650,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$204,626 |
| Whitneyville | \$18,050,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$31,663 |
| Passamaquoddy Nation | \$8,000,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$14,033 |
| Subtotal—All Municipalities | \$5,135,350,000 | | | | \$9,008,345 |
| Unorganized Territory | \$523,050,000 | x | 0.00175418342 | = | \$917,526 |
| Subtotal—Unorganized Territory | \$523,050,000 | | | | \$917,526 |
| TOTAL VALUATION/TAX | \$5,658,400,000 | | | | \$9,925,871 |

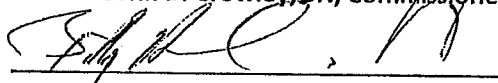
ORDERED:

That warrants be issued to the assessors of municipalities and Unorganized Territories, as assessed in the above list, requiring them to assess upon the polls and estates of the inhabitants and the estates of the non-resident properties the sums assessed upon them and commit a list thereof requiring the appropriate officer in each to transmit the collected, assessed amount to the Washington County Treasurer, Jill C. Holmes, or Ms. Holmes's successor by September 1, 2025.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

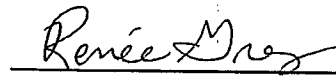

David C. Burns, Chairman


John B. Crowley, Sr., Commissioner


Billy Howard, Commissioner

A true copy.

Attest:


Renée Gray, County Manager

Date:

3/20/2025

ATTESTED COPY TO BE SENT TO FISCAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR UNORGANIZED TERRITORIES AND TO
THE STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION.

| Municipality | 2024 State Valuations | Valuations by Percentage | 2025 Proposed Tax by Town Based on 2024 State Valuations | 2024 Tax | Increase (Decrease) | Increase per average tax payer |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Addison | \$ 195,300,000 | 3.86094% | \$ 401,041.58 | \$ 314,231 | \$ 86,810.58 | \$ 57.19 |
| Alexander | \$ 76,450,000 | 1.51136% | \$ 156,987.35 | \$ 123,005 | \$ 33,982.35 | \$ 51.88 |
| Baileyville | \$ 378,150,000 | 7.47576% | \$ 776,517.54 | \$ 608,430 | \$ 168,087.54 | \$ 136.66 |
| Baring Plantation | \$ 17,450,000 | 0.34497% | \$ 35,832.95 | \$ 28,076 | \$ 7,756.95 | |
| Beals | \$ 117,650,000 | 2.32586% | \$ 241,590.08 | \$ 189,295 | \$ 52,295.08 | |
| Beddington | \$ 61,550,000 | 1.21680% | \$ 126,390.73 | \$ 99,032 | \$ 27,358.73 | |
| Calais | \$ 235,150,000 | 4.64875% | \$ 482,872.14 | \$ 378,348 | \$ 104,524.14 | \$ 44.30 |
| Charlotte | \$ 44,050,000 | 0.87084% | \$ 90,455.10 | \$ 70,875 | \$ 19,580.10 | \$ 39.32 |
| Cherryfield | \$ 125,100,000 | 2.47314% | \$ 256,888.39 | \$ 201,281 | \$ 55,607.39 | \$ 57.92 |
| Columbia | \$ 63,350,000 | 1.25238% | \$ 130,086.97 | \$ 101,928 | \$ 28,158.97 | |
| Columbia Falls | \$ 58,400,000 | 1.15453% | \$ 119,922.32 | \$ 93,964 | \$ 25,958.32 | \$ 46.52 |
| Cooper | \$ 31,000,000 | 0.61285% | \$ 63,657.39 | \$ 49,878 | \$ 13,779.39 | \$ 33.77 |
| Crawford | \$ 20,800,000 | 0.41120% | \$ 42,712.06 | \$ 33,466 | \$ 9,246.06 | |
| Cutler | \$ 88,450,000 | 1.74859% | \$ 181,628.92 | \$ 142,314 | \$ 39,314.92 | \$ 57.48 |
| Danforth | \$ 78,550,000 | 1.55288% | \$ 161,299.62 | \$ 126,384 | \$ 34,915.62 | |
| Deblois | \$ 41,050,000 | 0.81153% | \$ 84,294.71 | \$ 66,048 | \$ 18,246.71 | |
| Dennysville | \$ 23,250,000 | 0.45964% | \$ 47,743.05 | \$ 37,408 | \$ 10,335.05 | |
| East Machias | \$ 131,500,000 | 2.59966% | \$ 270,030.56 | \$ 211,579 | \$ 58,451.56 | |
| Eastport | \$ 214,000,000 | 4.23063% | \$ 439,441.37 | \$ 344,318 | \$ 95,123.37 | \$ 63.20 |
| Grand Lake Stream Plantation | \$ 54,450,000 | 1.07644% | \$ 111,811.13 | \$ 87,608 | \$ 24,203.13 | |
| Harrington | \$ 169,000,000 | 3.34101% | \$ 347,035.47 | \$ 271,915 | \$ 75,120.47 | \$ 74.08 |
| Jonesboro | \$ 76,350,000 | 1.50939% | \$ 156,782.00 | \$ 122,844 | \$ 33,938.00 | \$ 52.21 |
| Jonesport | \$ 219,350,000 | 4.33639% | \$ 450,427.40 | \$ 352,926 | \$ 97,501.40 | \$ 69.89 |
| Lubec | \$ 283,750,000 | 5.60954% | \$ 582,670.51 | \$ 456,544 | \$ 126,126.51 | \$ 70.54 |
| Machias | \$ 195,850,000 | 3.87182% | \$ 402,170.99 | \$ 315,116 | \$ 87,054.99 | \$ 71.47 |
| Machiasport | \$ 189,000,000 | 3.73640% | \$ 388,104.76 | \$ 304,094 | \$ 84,010.76 | \$ 74.08 |
| Marshfield | \$ 47,500,000 | 0.93904% | \$ 97,539.56 | \$ 76,426 | \$ 21,113.56 | \$ 45.11 |
| Meddybemps | \$ 35,400,000 | 0.69983% | \$ 72,692.64 | \$ 56,957 | \$ 15,735.64 | |
| Milbridge | \$ 268,550,000 | 5.30904% | \$ 551,457.85 | \$ 432,087 | \$ 119,370.85 | \$ 72.35 |
| Northfield | \$ 62,700,000 | 1.23953% | \$ 128,752.21 | \$ 100,882 | \$ 27,870.21 | |
| Pembroke | \$ 96,350,000 | 1.90477% | \$ 197,851.29 | \$ 155,024 | \$ 42,827.29 | |
| Perry | \$ 136,100,000 | 2.69060% | \$ 279,476.50 | \$ 218,980 | \$ 60,496.50 | |
| Princeton | \$ 74,900,000 | 1.48072% | \$ 153,804.48 | \$ 120,511 | \$ 33,293.48 | |
| Robbinston | \$ 66,450,000 | 1.31367% | \$ 136,452.71 | \$ 106,916 | \$ 29,536.71 | |
| Roque Bluffs | \$ 121,550,000 | 2.40296% | \$ 249,598.59 | \$ 195,570 | \$ 54,028.59 | |
| Steuben | \$ 263,500,000 | 5.20921% | \$ 541,087.85 | \$ 423,962 | \$ 117,125.85 | \$ 71.24 |
| Talmadge | \$ 8,250,000 | 0.16310% | \$ 16,941.08 | \$ 13,275 | \$ 3,666.08 | |
| Topsfield | \$ 24,900,000 | 0.49226% | \$ 51,131.26 | \$ 40,063 | \$ 11,068.26 | |
| Vanceboro | \$ 10,700,000 | 0.21153% | \$ 21,972.07 | \$ 17,217 | \$ 4,755.07 | |
| Waite | \$ 9,950,000 | 0.19670% | \$ 20,431.97 | \$ 16,009 | \$ 4,422.97 | |
| Wesley | \$ 29,900,000 | 0.59110% | \$ 61,398.58 | \$ 48,108 | \$ 13,290.58 | |
| Whiting | \$ 100,350,000 | 1.98385% | \$ 206,065.15 | \$ 161,460 | \$ 44,605.15 | \$ 49.23 |
| Whitneyville | \$ 16,850,000 | 0.33311% | \$ 34,600.87 | \$ 27,111 | \$ 7,489.87 | |
| Passamaquoddy Nation | \$ 7,100,000 | 0.14036% | \$ 14,579.60 | \$ 11,424 | \$ 3,155.60 | |
| Unorganized Territories | \$ 488,400,000 | 9.65532% | \$ 1,002,911.98 | \$ 785,818 | \$ 217,093.98 | |
| | \$ 5,058,350,000 | 100.00000% | \$ 10,387,141.32 | \$ 8,138,707 | \$ 2,248,434.32 | |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 2025 Proposed Amount to be raised by Taxation | \$10,335,464 |
| Assumed Overlay | \$51,677 |
| Total | \$10,387,141 |