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What do you think are the 3 biggest issues Maine faces over the next four years?

1. Improving Maine's Economy
2. Stabilizing State Revenue
3. Clean Energy and Transportation

How will you represent *all Portlanders*, including the traditionally marginalized members of our community (for example, the homeless, the poor, those with mental or physical disabilities)?

The City of Portland and District 119 in particular has a lot of residents who are physically, mentally, and/or economically challenged. I grew up in a single parent household. I grew up with a brother who is mentally challenged due to a childhood head injury. I am low income and have had no health care all of my adult life. Due to these and other real life experiences I feel I can relate to the needs of my neighbors and the struggles they face.

In the Legislature I will always stand up and fight for the interests and needs of those who are traditionally marginalized. I will oppose any and all cuts to the critical services these populations depend on. Furthermore I will support continued efforts to educate our entire population regarding stigmas and discrimination associated with traditionally marginalized members of our community through the public school programs, public service announcements, and community forums and events.

How will you deal with the budget shortfall? Augusta has been committed to only dealing with one side of the budget, by cutting expenses. Are you open to raising revenues? If so, in what ways?

I will be a leading voice for generating more revenue, reforming the budget process, and opposing further budget cuts. It is frustrating that every time there is a revenue shortfall the Governor and the Legislature only talk about cuts and never talk about raising revenue!

To cover short term budget shortfalls and continue funding critical services I would support some temporary tax increases with a sunset clause. For example, we could raise the sales tax to 6% for a year or two and then lower it back down to 5% when the economy recovers. This is being done right now in other states and we did it here in Maine when Angus King was Governor.

In the long term I would support eliminating tax breaks for businesses that are not responsible to the community and their employees, having a higher sales tax on luxury items, and raising the lodging tax from 7% to 10%. Also we could spread out the state income tax brackets more so that people who earn \$200,000 would pay a higher percentage in income tax than the person earning \$50,000. Right now income tax is the same for both of these income levels.

There has been persistent uncertainty regarding federal subsidies for Rail in Maine (specifically the Downeaster). Are you committed to Maine's Amtrak link? How would the state make up any short fall in federal funding for Amtrak?

Yes I am committed to Maine's Amtrak link and I am also committed to expanding rail transportation and providing commuter rail service, especially in the Greater Portland area. We could cover any short fall in federal funding by increase the state's per gallon gas tax. By making it more expensive to drive a car and using the money to make alternative transportation more accessible and affordable state government can discourage single occupancy car use that causes pollution and heavy traffic congestion.

Do you support same-sex marriage? (please answer yes or no) If yes, what will you do to further the cause? If no, why do you oppose same-sex marriage?

Yes. I have always been an advocate and leader for equality for everyone.

In 2004, while working as a Legislative Aide at the State House, I supported passage Maine's domestic partnership law (LD 1579). On July 30, 2004, the first day the law took effect, I helped celebrate the new law with Equality Maine at a State House ceremony where I notarized some of the first domestic partnerships in Maine. As a Notary Public, I

continue to offer my notary services free of charge to anyone wishing to become domestic partners.

In 2000 and 2005 I volunteered with the campaigns to end discrimination. I also volunteered with the 2009 campaign for marriage equality.

As a State Representative, I will advocate and vote for a same-sex marriage law in the Maine Legislature. Also, I do not think it is appropriate for civil rights to be voted on through the citizen's referendum process and would not support putting this issue out to a public vote.

What policies do you believe need to be enacted to support Maine's growing immigrant and refugee population?

There are several immigrants who have started really successful small businesses in District 119. The State of Maine should encourage more of this by establishing a low interest small business loan program specifically for the immigrant and refugee population. In addition, we could have a reduced state income tax rate for the first two years for any immigrant or refugee who relocates here and starts a successful small business. Also we could allow them to participate in our democracy by voting in local and state elections.

How can the government of Maine keep our youth from leaving and attract new youth to the State?

We need to create more opportunities and good paying jobs and reduce the cost of living in Maine. I organized the collection of 24,000 signatures in six weeks for the Opportunity Maine initiative and, while it is a good start, there is still a lot more work to be done to make Maine more attractive for young people. We could attract more good paying jobs by reducing Maine's tax burden but it must be done in a fair and responsible way. Young people are not going to graduate from college and then stay in Maine and work at Wal-Mart.

We could shift tax breaks away from companies that are not responsible to their employees or the community and provide them to companies that are. Improving and creating more alternative transportation and creating a statewide single payer health care system to reduce health care costs would also help attract young people to make Maine their permanent home.

How would you improve access to healthcare in Maine? What steps would you take to improve Dirigo Health? Do you support single payer healthcare?

As someone who has had no health care all of my adult life I have always felt that health care is a basic right. I was working at the State House when Dirigo Health was passed. While it is a good start, it has not been as successful as it was supposed to be.

I would support turning Dirigo Health into a single payer health care system for the state within the guidelines allowed under the new federal law. This will save us a lot of money in the long run as we can use our collective buying power to negotiate the cost of health care. This would also go a long way towards improving our business climate in Maine and attracting responsible employers and good paying jobs.