



SIDE by SIDE LePage vs. Mills



Economy

- Turned away almost \$2 billion in federal funding
- Slashed public services, gave towns less for local services & failed to fully fund schools
- Gutted public health system, leaving ME vulnerable to the pandemic
- Rural communities saw 7 straight years of economic decline
- 10 years after the recession, ME was 1 of only 5 states without net GDP growth
- Leveraging \$2.25 billion in federal funds to build stronger economy & help pandemic recovery
- Recovered 95,000 jobs lost in the pandemic in just 2 years
- Fulfilled state obligation for funding education for the first time in ME history
- GDP growth & unemployment rate are better than national averages
- Quadrupled the state's "rainy day" fund

Taxes

- Prioritized lowering taxes for wealthiest 1% who already paid less than 80% of ME households
- Income tax breaks cost ME \$895 million annually, resulting in greater reliance on sales & property taxes
- Shifted budget shortfalls to towns, causing property taxes to rise
- Cut "circuit breaker" property tax refund benefitting older Mainers & people w/ low income
- Forfeited almost \$2 billion in taxpayer-funded federal resources
- Policies resulted in bottom 40% of households paying a lower tax rate than the wealthiest 1% for the first time
- Stabilized property taxes by fully funding schools & municipal revenue sharing
- Closed corporate tax loopholes
- Raised homestead exemption reimbursement rate, saving homeowners money
- Enacted a five fold increase of the Earned Income Tax Credit

Jobs

- Tried to block voter-approved minimum wage increase for 1 in 3 workers
- Laid off 1,800 state workers & slashed pensions for retirees
- Forfeited 4,000 jobs by refusing to expand Medicaid
- Cut supports for out-of-work Mainers
- Recession job recovery took 9 years, among the slowest in the nation
- Recovered 99% of jobs lost during the pandemic in just two years
- Directed \$2.25 billion in federal funds to boost economy & launch ME Jobs & Recovery Plan
- Raised pay for teachers & care workers & boosted pensions for public servants
- Enacted first-in-the-nation paid leave law that benefits 85% of ME workers
- High rate of in-migration & the only state to grow younger in 2021

Poverty

- Slashed food assistance & safety net access in the middle of a recession
- Policy changes resulted in 58,000 Mainers losing food assistance
- Children fell into deep poverty at 8 times the national average
- ME was 3rd hungriest state in US & 1 in 6 households was food insecure b/w 2013 & 2015
- Rejected, hoarded & misspent millions intended to help people in poverty
- Restored & expanded access to social safety net programs
- Committed to ending hunger by 2030 w/ sweeping plan
- Continued free school meal program for all ME children even after federal program ended
- Targeted critical funding to child care & supports for working families
- Boosted pay for low-wage workers

Health Care

- Cut funding for family planning services
- Increased drug costs for older & disabled Mainers by cutting medication assistance programs
- Blocked Medicaid expansion & cut eligibility for Mainers w/ low income
- Positioned ME as the only state that didn't increase its share of people w/ health insurance, including 3,600 fewer children w/ coverage
- ME dropped from 10th best health ranking to 21st
- Protected & expanded reproductive care & abortion access
- Reduced medication costs for older & disabled Mainers by restoring funding for medication assistance programs
- Implemented Medicaid expansion, giving 95,000 Mainers access to affordable health care & increased coverage eligibility for 40,000 children
- Top-rated pandemic response among states
- ME rose from 21st best health ranking to 8th

Education

- Defying voter-approved mandates, never fully funded schools
- Prioritized tax breaks for the rich at the expense of public schools
- Shortchanged schools by more than \$1.3 billion, leaving towns to make up the difference
- Blocked school meal expansion while ME kids were among hungriest in the nation
- Vetoed Student Loan Bill of Rights that would have protected ME students
- Fulfilled the state's commitment to cover 55% of the cost of K-12 education for the first time
- Increased base pay & fast-tracked certification for teachers
- Provided free community college for pandemic-impacted graduates
- Made school meals free for all ME children
- Signed Student Loan Bill of Rights to combat predatory lending

Older Mainers

- Forfeited ~\$240 million in federal funding for older Mainers by refusing to expand Medicaid
- Blocked \$37 million in funding for affordable senior housing
- Forfeited \$4 million for Alzheimer's, dementia, & preventative cancer care
- Cut Drugs for the Elderly program & tried to eliminate Meals on Wheels
- Expanded Medicaid, resulting in affordable health care for 22,000 older Mainers
- Authorized senior housing bonds & new housing tax credits
- Restored safety net access & expanded food & fuel assistance programs
- Increased funding for nursing homes & direct care to address workforce shortages
- Established a new Cabinet on Aging

Environment

- Ignored evidence of looming PFAS "forever chemical" pollution crisis
- Blocked clean energy initiatives, investment & innovation
- Opposition to clean energy initiatives cost ME thousands of high-quality jobs
- Appointed oil industry lobbyist to lead Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Tried to expand offshore oil drilling in ME waters
- Formed PFAS Task Force & targeted \$90M to address "forever chemical" pollution
- Launched Maine's Climate Action Plan w/ aggressive climate & energy goals
- On track to reach 80% renewable electricity by 2030 & carbon neutrality by 2045
- Policies resulted in 300% solar capacity surge in just 2 years
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduced to 25% below 1990 levels