



REPRESENTATIVE Meredith Strang Burgess

District 108
Cumberland, Chebeague Island, Long Island and part of North Yarmouth
Constituent Survey Results



Thank you for taking the time to respond to my recent survey. Your feedback is valuable and appreciated. I received 232 surveys which is a 5.39% return rate. Thank You!

Health and Safety

Should Mainers be allowed to purchase health insurance coverage outside of the state to obtain lower premiums?

94 % Yes 6% No

**I supported this bill but it was voted ought not to pass in committee and never came before the full legislature.*

Should the "savings offset" tax currently applied to private healthcare insurance premiums to subsidize the Dirigo Health program be abolished?

68% Yes 32% No

**This bill was carried over to the next legislative session and never came before the full legislature.*

Do you support the State of Maine leaving the private insurance market and becoming the self-insured provider for Dirigo Health?

41% Yes **59% No**

**I voted against self-insurance of Dirigo Health, but it passed.*

In order for persons to qualify for welfare, should a 30-day residency requirement be established?

92% Yes 8% No

**I supported this bill but it was voted ought not to pass in committee and never came before the full legislature. Did you know that the current law requires 0 days of Maine residency to be eligible for welfare.*

Taxes and Business Climate

Would you support a broadening of the state's sales tax or an increase in the meals and lodging tax if Maine's income tax rates were lowered?

57% Yes 43% No

**This was part of the failed tax reform bill. I wanted to support overall reduction in spending and a restructured tax code to lower our tax burden. However, the bill only emerged in the final days of session and it did not adequately reduce our tax burden and therefore I could not be supportive.*

Should Maine's Constitution be amended to require a 2/3 vote of each house of the Legislature to enact or increase a tax or license fee?

82% Yes 18% No

**Bill failed— I voted in support of the bill.*

The Governor's budget contains a proposal to increase the tax on cigarettes from \$2 to \$3 per pack, which would generate \$65 million per year in revenue. Do you support this increase?

76% Yes 14% No

**This proposal was removed from the Governor's budget proposal and never received a separate vote. However, I am a strong proponent of all efforts to reduce smoking.*

Should Maine's minimum wage, currently \$6.75 per hour and scheduled to increase to \$7 per hour in October, be increased to more than \$7 per hour?

55% Yes 45 % No

**This bill was killed in committee and never came before the full legislature.*

Would you support having the revenue raised from the sales tax collected from new vehicle purchases be dedicated to the Highway Fund for road and bridge repair?

78% Yes 22% No

**This bill was passed—I voted to support this legislation.*

Education

There are several bills before the Legislature to reduce the number of Maine school districts and superintendents in an effort to reduce administrative costs. Do you support such an effort?

90% Yes 10% No

**School consolidation was included in the overall budget package and was passed. I supported the budget bill primarily due to the need to make changes in our school administrative costs.*

Should schools not be able to start classes until after Labor Day?

62% Yes 38% No

**I voted to support an amended version of the bill, but ultimately this bill was voted down.*

Should all schools in Maine adopt a uniform school year?

63% Yes 37% No

**This bill came forward as part of the early school consolidation plan but was not part of the final bill.*

Should secondary school students be required to complete at least one application to a postsecondary educational institution?

42% Yes **58% No**

**This bill was passed unanimously by the House and Senate and signed into law by the Governor. Note that the final version of this bill did not require the application be sent to a school - just completed as part of the English requirement for graduation.*

Environment

Do you support the State's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that would establish a carbon dioxide cap and trade program?

66% Yes 34% No

**This bill was passed - I voted to support this legislation and was a co-sponsor.*

Should regulations of significant vernal pools, waterfowl and wading bird habitat and shorebird nesting, feeding and staging areas be reduced from 250 feet from the edge of the protected feature to a lesser distance, perhaps 100 feet?

29% Yes **71% No**

**This bill was unanimously passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the Governor. The final bill revised the setback to 100 feet from the edge of the protected feature and was supported by the Department of Environmental Protection.*

Should any new construction or renovation of any residential building be required to conform to the model building energy code developed by the Maine Public Utilities Commission?

51% Yes 49% No

**This bill was unanimously passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the Governor.*

Do you support the Maine Department of Environmental Protection developing rules to regulate the emissions of outdoor wood boilers that are used in residential housing?

65% Yes 35% No

**This bill was passed and signed into law. I voted in support this bill.*

Do you support the State's Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program in order for the State of Maine to acquire land and water access for conservation purposes?

80% Yes 20% No

**A bond supporting the Land for Maine's Future program was passed to go out to the people on a referendum in November 2007. I was a co-sponsor of the original bill.*

Thank you for your input.

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