



February 2019

Dear Friend,

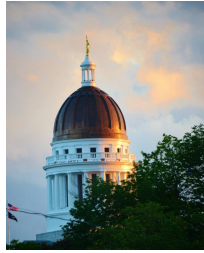
Greetings from Augusta. It's the second month of session here, and the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature is moving at top speed. Lucky for me, I was a sprinter back in the day!

Now that the Governor's budget has been proposed and her cabinet totally confirmed, our work has shifted to public hearings and debates on the 2,000+ bills submitted this session. We're addressing issues and ideas across hundreds of topics, while keeping the focus on providing an exceptional education to children of all ages, pushing to lower property taxes, and remaining committed to increasing access to affordable health care.

I'm pleased to be sponsoring several bills important to our towns, including one drafted at the request of the Camden-Rockport Pathways Committee which I call the "Riverwalk" bill. This piece of legislation (LR 1114) will help communities throughout the state create non-motorized trails along scenic river and waterfronts, while the "Ferry" bill (LD 380) recognizes that affordable passenger, freight and vehicle transportation is critical for the year-round residents of our island communities. Another of my bills (LD 379) addresses concerns I heard while knocking on doors last summer: the safe storage of loaded firearms in homes where children are present.

The *Camden Herald* published [an editorial about the bill](#) if you'd like to read more. Let me know if you'd like to see a copy of the editorial. I also recently sat down with the [PenBay Pilot](#) to talk about some of my legislative priorities. You can find all of the legislation I am sponsoring and co-sponsoring [right here](#). (Just select my name in the "sponsor" line.)

My work on the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee is progressing as we address issues including accountability for electric utility billing, increased broadband access in Maine, and renewable energy sources and solutions. I continue to take advantage of the many educational opportunities offered at the State House, from the Sensible Drug Policy Caucus to the Environmental Priorities Coalition. Earlier this month I participated in a training session on Maine Tribal-State Relations. We examined how historical events have shaped tribal-state policy and practice today, and I gained a better understanding of the Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980 from a tribal perspective.



We have much work to do on many complex issues facing Maine, but I believe we're off to a good start toward making Maine an even better place to live, work and raise a family. Please reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas that you may have. It's an honor to serve as your State Representative, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

*Vicki*

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## Familiar Faces at the State House!



These two ladies from District 94 are both working hard in Augusta. On the left is Kate McClellan, a Rockport native who works for Speaker Sara Gideon as her Senior Legislative Aide and Policy Analyst. On the right is Jackie Merrill. She attended Camden Hills and is now working as a Legislative Aide in the House Democratic Office. I love to see their smiling faces in the halls!

## Connect with Your State Rep: Vicki's Upcoming Sessions

**Saturday, February 23 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
Bluewater Bakery, 103 Pendleton Point Road in Islesboro

**Saturday, March 23 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
Rockport Diner, 420 West Street in Rockport

These events are an opportunity for constituents to sit down with me and hear updates from Augusta, ask questions about policy making and share opinions on state matters.

## Opioid Epidemic Update

On Feb. 6, Gov. Mills signed an executive order directing immediate action to combat the opioid epidemic in Maine. A Prevention and Recovery Cabinet will oversee many of the actions initiated by the executive order. Locally, I've met with both the Knox County Recovery Coalition and Mid-Coast Recovery Coalition, two groups who are working hard to help residents in our area. Watch for fundraisers and informational meetings coming up if you would like to get involved.

For more information and the full executive order, visit:  
<https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-signs-executive-order-directing-immediate-action-combat-opioid-epidemic-2019-02>

## Want an extra payday?

Each year, tens of millions of dollars go unclaimed in Maine. These financial assets are turned over by national and local businesses and organizations that lose contact with the rightful owners of the funds. The State Treasurer holds these assets until claimed by the owner or heir.

This year alone, nearly \$25 million in unclaimed property was added to the Treasurer's database. Find out if any of these funds belong to you, your business, your friends or your family by visiting: [www.maineunclaimedproperty.gov](http://www.maineunclaimedproperty.gov). I'll be reaching out to constituents who have unclaimed funds through social media, too.

## Find help with your tax returns

It's time to think about tax returns, and CA\$H Maine may be a helpful resource in your filing. CA\$H Maine is a collaboration of organizations across the state that work together to provide free tax preparation and other financial services for Mainers who meet income requirements. For more information and to find out about services in our area, visit [www.cashmaine.org](http://www.cashmaine.org).

