



July 2019

Dear Friend,

It's a wrap! After pulling an all-nighter to finish our work, we adjourned the first session of the 129th Legislature on June 20th.

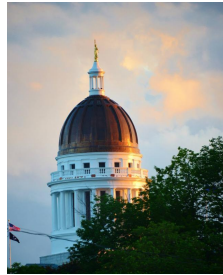
I am so proud of the work we did this year. In a great spirit of bipartisanship, we passed a budget that works for everyone, expanded health care to reach more Mainers, invested in our workforce to grow our economy, improved vaccination requirements to keep our communities safe and took big steps to shift to renewable energy, and protect our environment. Whew!

I'm also glad to report several bills I worked on this session were signed into law. **LD 892 is a resolve to study the exemption of private nonmedical institutions from the service provider tax.** Several community members approached me last fall regarding this unfair tax and I'm pleased the Department of Financial Services and others will examine it with the aim of finding alternatives. **On April 11, the Governor signed into law an act to allow children to use sunscreen in schools, a measure suggested to me by a dermatologist in our district as a key step in the prevention of deadly melanoma.** I was fortunate to work with two outstanding women on these bills, Sens. Eloise Vitelli and Cathy Breen, and am thrilled to see our efforts pay off.

There is certainly more work to do. For example, I hope next session we'll take steps to improve the affordability of higher education and further relieve the burden of property taxes. I have a few bills that have been carried over (such as one to create a fairer rate structure for the Maine State Ferry Service, and another to help rid our oceans, lakes, and landscape of plastic bottle caps) and I'll be working on them before we reconvene. With such a robust first session complete, I know our momentum will be strong when we return in January.

These are just a few items I wanted to highlight from this session. I'll be sharing more updates throughout the summer detailing the work we completed, as well as information from my Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, since our plan is to meet several times over the next few months.

In the meantime, rest assured that the end of session does not mean close of business for me! In July, I will be heading to the University of Virginia for five days to take part in an emerging leaders program sponsored by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation. Speaker Sara Gideon nominated me for the program and I was thrilled to be chosen as the Maine delegate. It will be a rigorous week (and I have homework to do before I even get there) but I'm looking forward to learning more about the challenges of political leadership, and meeting colleagues from around the country.



I'm very grateful to serve as your Representative. Please reach out with any questions, concerns or suggestions you have, and have a wonderful Independence Day!

Sincerely,

Vicki

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Familiar faces at the State House



In June, I welcomed Dr. Janis Petzel of Islesboro to the State House. Janis served as the Legislature's Doctor of the Day. Every day that the Legislature is in session, a doctor is on hand in case of medical emergencies. If you, or someone you know, would like to serve as Doctor of the Day next spring, [click here for more information.](#)

We have a Transportation Budget

Maine's Transportation Budget is separate from our State Budget and details the infrastructure projects we need completed across the state. To learn more about upcoming Maine Department of Transportation projects in our area, [click here.](#)

Farewell to a Friend

I will really miss Frank Carr, who passed away on June 15. He was a former Marine, having served his country actively for 22 years, a Realtor, and lover of local history, but I knew him best in his capacity as Commander of American Legion Post 30. Frank graciously welcomed me to the Post twice a month with his gentle smile and allowed me to put on my red, white and blue apron to lend a hand with their pancake breakfasts. I'll always remember his calm demeanor and spirit of service. Calling hours will be at the Post at 91 Pearl Street on July 5 from 4 to 6 pm. Rest in peace, Frank!

Maine's young wildlife

Summertime in Maine means more encounters with wildlife, especially young animals. The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife wants to remind us that when you see these animals, it's best for your health and theirs to leave them alone. Follow [this link](#) to learn what to do when you see young animals in the wild.

Fourth of July celebrations

It's almost America's birthday! For those of you still planning how to celebrate our country, you can find a list of fireworks, parades and events around Maine [here.](#) Locally, the Islesboro parade kicks off at 11 am, as does the Thomaston parade, where I'll be marching. The annual Rotary concert in Camden's Harbor Park begins at noon and promises to be the best one yet, followed by fireworks over the harbor at 9pm.

