



MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936

60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486
1-800-452-8786 (in state) | (t) 207-623-8428
(f) 207-624-0129

To: MMA's Legislative Policy Committee
Fr: Melissa Doane, Chair
Re: Notice and Agenda for the August 29, 2024 LPC Meeting
Date: August 22, 2024

The next meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee is scheduled for:

Thursday, August 29, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Maine Municipal Association

Zoom Option Available:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82198518812?pwd=fbNTeuAhHKGwGFHjdrU8SZQAU8yzDY.1>

First and foremost, congratulations on your successful bid to serve on the Legislative Policy Committee and thank you for your interest in the process. As you will hear from MMA's advocacy staff, municipal leaders and officials are vital to the association's efforts in representing municipal voices and points of view before the Maine State Legislature.

The LPC will begin to convene monthly starting in January 2025 to establish MMA's positions on initiatives advanced by newly elected members of the legislature. However, over the next three months, the policy committee will focus its attention on developing MMA's 2024-2026 legislative platform, if deemed appropriate.

The first such meeting will take place next Thursday.

The purpose of this meeting is two-fold. First, MMA's advocacy staff will lead the LPC through a quick introduction and orientation session, which will include an overview of MMA's plans to conduct regional engagement forums throughout Maine in September, October and November. The focus of these meetings is to engage municipal officials and state lawmakers in discussions on how to improve upon and maximize the state/municipal partnership. Rebecca Graham will lead the discussion and explain how LPC members can get involved. The first of these regional efforts begins in the midcoast region, bringing together candidates for state office and local government officials from four counties to two meetings scheduled for September 11 and 12.

Once staff have set the stage for the coming year, the policy committee will turn its attention to determining the Association's 2024-2026 legislative platform.

To assist in this effort, included as [Attachment 1](#) is a summary of the results of a legislative issues survey completed by elected and appointed municipal officials.

As the first step in the process, the committee will decide whether to advance a protect the core, or a traditional platform approach for upcoming legislative cycle. As a reminder, under the protect the core, staff takes a defensive approach to protect the erosion of important municipal programs, such as revenue sharing. Under a traditional platform, the LPC identifies and staff drafts legislation for consideration by the legislature during the two-year legislative session.

If the LPC decides to move forward with a traditional approach, staff will walk the policy committee through the process of identifying and narrowing down the bills to be considered by the 132nd Maine State Legislature.

Drafts of proposed legislation will be developed by staff and available for review at your September 26 and October 23 meetings.

Finally, while in-person participation is preferable, Zoom is also an option. To help staff plan, please **let Laura Ellis (lellis@memun.org) know before noon on Tuesday, August 27** if you intend to participate via Zoom or at MMA. This is very important as it will enable staff to make the best use of our resources.

I am tremendously excited for the opportunity to lead you through this important process and look forward to seeing you on Thursday. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email or call Kate Dufour at kdufour@memun.org or 207-592-4038.

Thank you.

Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions (10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)

- Welcome and Introductions
- LPC Roles, Responsibilities & Expectations
- Regional Engagement Forums
- Housekeeping
 - Attendance and mileage reimbursement sheet
 - Member information sheet and designation of alternate
 - [LPC Bylaws](#)

II. Agenda Development (10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with a noon break.)

- Overview of agenda development process
 - Approach (e.g., multiple bills or protect the core)
 - Bills to include in MMA platform
- Next Steps

III. Adjourn