

# Elimination of Homestead Exemption for Those Under 65 Would Seriously Impact Property Owners



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LEWISTON:** The proposed changes to the State of Maine homestead exemption would seriously impact property owners under age 65 according to Lewiston's Chief Assessor William Healey. Governor Paul LePage's budget proposal for the next two years includes a provision that would eliminate the homestead exemption for homeowners under the age of 65, and if the proposal is adopted, the changes will take place immediately—impacting the tax bills that come out in August 2017.

Currently, the homestead exemption provides property tax relief to all property owners who claim their Lewiston home as their primary residence. The homestead exemption reduces the taxable valuation of one's property by \$13,650, resulting in annual property tax savings of \$375.92. The exemption amount is set to increase to \$18,200 for the upcoming Fiscal 2018 Tax Year--providing additional tax savings. **HOWEVER**, this benefit will be lost to most Lewiston property owners if the Governor's proposed changes to the homestead exemption are adopted.

Healey notes that the Lewiston Assessing Office does not create property tax policy. It is, however, their job to adhere to and administer laws adopted by the Maine Legislature. In that regard, it is

recommended that residents contact their local state officials (listed below) if opposed to the proposed changes to the homestead exemption, which would eliminate substantial property tax savings.

State Senator Senate District 21	Nathan Libby 44 Robinson Gardens 713-8449 <a href="mailto:nathan.libby@gmail.com">nathan.libby@gmail.com</a>
State Representative House District 58	James Handy 9 Maplewood Road 784-5595 <a href="mailto:Jim.Handy@legislature.maine.gov">Jim.Handy@legislature.maine.gov</a>
State Representative House District 59	Roger Fuller 36 Elliott Avenue 783-9091 <a href="mailto:Roger.Fuller@legislature.maine.gov">Roger.Fuller@legislature.maine.gov</a>
State Representative House District 60	Jared Golden 3 Diamond Court 287-1430 <a href="mailto:Jared.Golden@legislature.maine.gov">Jared.Golden@legislature.maine.gov</a>
State Representative House District 61	Heidi Brooks One Pleasant Street #2 740-5229 <a href="mailto:Heidi.Brooks@legislature.maine.gov">Heidi.Brooks@legislature.maine.gov</a>

In addition, it is very likely that the state budget will be adopted well past the April 1, 2017, assessment date. In that regard, for Assessor's to have the required homestead exemption paperwork in a timely manner, all resident homeowners 65 years of age or older are asked to

provide Assessing with proof of age in the form of a driver's license or birth certificate. The documentation may be mailed or brought to the

office: **Lewiston Assessing Office, Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street –  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Lewiston, ME 04240.**

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