



**Annual Report to the City of Waterville**  
A Message from Senator Thomas Martin

January 2012

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me to work for the citizens of Waterville and our region. Representing your interests this past year in the Maine State Senate has been truly a rewarding experience. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your voice in Augusta.

When Republicans took their oath of office last December, we promised to move Maine in a new direction and to make our state more prosperous and affordable to all Mainers. Lawmakers also faced dire budget projections of a billion dollar shortfall. Many doubted we could attain anything substantive with the obstacles before us. Instead of looking at quick-fix solutions to the problems before us, we met our challenges head on by rolling up our sleeves and working together. Over the months that ensued, the Legislature approved a number of significant reform measures to our health insurance market, tax policies, and state regulations.

Looking back at the results of the First Regular Session, I believe legislators made significant strides in addressing Maine's most pressing needs during extremely difficult times. We did so while avoiding a government shutdown and the polarizing situations that occurred in other states. Leadership made the decision early on in the session that we would insist on a two-thirds budget and we would create a culture of inclusion, respect and consensus. We increased state funding to local schools by \$65 million, brought solvency to the retiree pension system, insisted on more transparency and accountability at the Maine Turnpike Authority, and paid back our local hospitals millions of dollars that had been owed to them for years. We worked hard to deliver the changes we promised, and we succeeded.

Though important progress has been made, lawmakers have a great deal of work ahead of them when they return to Augusta in January. The most daunting task will be addressing a staggering \$120 million shortfall within the Department of Health and Human Services and its MaineCare program. In terms of all spending, MaineCare accounts for 32 percent of the state budget and enrollment is expected to grow at more than three times the rate of our revenues over the next four years. Difficult structural changes to the MaineCare program must be made soon; but I am confident that if we continue to work together as we did last year, we can return MaineCare back to a sustainable and quality system that protects Maine's most at-risk citizens.

Again, thank you for entrusting me to represent you in Augusta. Please feel free to contact me if you ever need my help in navigating the state bureaucracy. I can be reached in Augusta at 287-1505 or by e-mail at [nitram@roadrunner.com](mailto:nitram@roadrunner.com).

Sincerely,

Thomas Martin  
Maine State Senator