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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the U.S. Senate. I am grateful for the trust that Mainers have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to share some key accomplishments for our state.

Last year, I secured more than \$500 million for 285 projects from Aroostook County to York County that will promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; improve public safety, infrastructure, and community resources; and protect our environment. To address the crisis of soaring inflation and high energy prices, I led efforts to provide \$2 billion in supplemental funds to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. In the new Congress that begins in 2023, I expect to be the Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and will continue to champion investments to support Maine's communities and families.

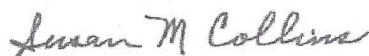
Strengthening our economy and supporting good jobs remain a top priority. Along with the Governor and the rest of the Maine Delegation and the associations representing the lobster industry, I worked to protect our hardworking lobstermen and women by pausing for six years the onerous federal regulations that jeopardize our lobster fishery's very existence. Another ongoing threat to Maine's small businesses is the shortage of workers. That's why I led an effort to push the Administration to nearly double the number of H-2B visas that are critical to our hospitality industry. Additionally, when the Administration proposed to cut the construction of a destroyer to be built by Bath Iron Works, I restored this funding to protect Maine jobs and our national security.

When Maine Veterans' Homes announced last year that it planned to close its facilities in Caribou and Machias, I opposed that decision which would have had such a devastating effect on rural veterans and their families. I am glad that the decision was reversed, and I have secured \$3 million to help with upgrades to these facilities. My *AUTO for Vets Act* also became law, which will help disabled veterans maintain their independence by supporting the purchase of a new adaptive vehicle once a decade.

This past year, Congress demonstrated how effective it can be on behalf of the American people when both parties work together. A few of the bipartisan achievements that I was involved in include the *Respect for Marriage Act*, which will provide certainty to millions of loving couples in same-sex marriages while protecting religious liberties, and the *Electoral Count Reform Act*, which establishes clear guidelines for our system of certifying and counting electoral votes for President and Vice President.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and I have honored that work ethic by showing up for every vote. During my Senate service, I have cast more than 8,500 consecutive votes, never having missed one. I remain committed to doing all that I can to address your community's concerns in 2023. If I may be of assistance to you in any way, I encourage you to contact one of my six state offices.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 5

Senator Russell Black
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It is an honor to represent you, your family, and the communities of District 5 in the Maine Senate. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me to work for the betterment of our region and I can assure you that I will work tirelessly on your behalf.

This will be my third term in the Maine State Senate, previously serving all of Franklin County and some towns in Kennebec County. While my district has changed, as a result of redistricting, I know many of the important issues to those in rural Maine remain the same.

With a struggling economy and the cost of groceries, gas, home heating oil and electricity increasing, Maine families, seniors, and small businesses need relief from the high costs breaking our budgets. Addressing the policies that have created some of these high costs is a priority of mine in the coming session. In addition to addressing these costs, the 131st Legislature is tasked with passing a balanced budget by June 30, 2023. This will require careful review of current state spending and prioritizing our needs versus wants, just like Mainers do with their own budgets. As your State Senator, I will be working to find ways to lower taxes and rein in state spending so that you can keep more of your hard-earned money.

I hope during these difficult times we all come together as a community, and reach out to our neighbors in need. Check in with each other and reach out if you or someone you know is struggling. As always, I am eager to help with state-related issues.

Again, thank you for electing me to serve you in the State Senate. The 131st Legislature certainly has a great deal of work to do; but I believe that if we come together, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Please feel free to contact me at 287-1505 or Russell.Black@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,



Russell Black
State Senator



OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Daniel J. Newman

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Daniel.Newman@legislature.maine.gov

January 2023

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for re-electing me to serve as your State Representative. It has been a pleasure serving the residents of Vienna during the past two years and I look forward to continuing to be your voice in the Maine Legislature. Representing you is an honor and a privilege I take seriously. My focus has always been to keep you well informed of legislative matters and making myself available to address your questions and concerns. I look forward to the new challenges that await us in the current legislative session.

In order to represent you in the best way possible, I need to hear your thoughts on the issues that are important to you. Please, do not hesitate to call anytime if you feel you need my assistance. I encourage you to monitor all legislative proposals being worked on at the State House by visiting the Legislature's website at www.legislature.maine.gov. From here, you can browse bill summaries, view our legislative session and public hearing schedules, listen to committee hearings or watch live streaming video of the House and Senate.

Again this session, I have been asked to serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. On this committee, we will discuss many issues regarding the Committee's jurisdiction over new legislation pertaining to Maine Criminal Codes; the Criminal Law Advisory Commission; the Department of Public Safety; Criminal Justice Academy; the Department of Corrections and the Maine Emergency Management Agency. These matters are crucial to our community and I hope to hear from you with any questions and concerns.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve the constituents of District 58. I encourage you to actively participate in your state government. If you would like to be added to my email update list to receive updates and important information on State programs and services, you can do so by emailing me directly with your request at Daniel.Newman@legislature.maine.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Newman".

Daniel J. Newman
State Representative

District 58 Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Rome, Vienna & New Sharon

"First to Serve ~ 1799"



**Office of the Sheriff
Kennebec County, Maine**

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Alfred G. Morin, Chief Deputy

Lieutenant J. Chris Read
Law Enforcement
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Augusta, Maine 04330
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Captain Bryan S. Slaney
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January 23, 2023

The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office is pleased to make the following report regarding the services we provided to the people of Kennebec County in 2022. These services include the Law Enforcement Division, Correctional Services, Civil Process, Court and Transport Division. We provided many regional assets to our communities including K-9 Teams, Dive Team, Sex Offender Registry, Veterans Advocacy, Accident Reconstruction and Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) and a School Resource Officer for MSAD 49.

While the severity of the pandemic is decreasing, my office shall remain vigilant. We will monitor for potential virus recurrence in our correctional facility and take all recommended precautions to reduce any impact that may threaten those in our custody.

In 2022, Law Enforcement Deputies again logged thousands of calls for service. Our calls for service have increased since 2021. Our geographic patrol responsibilities within the County have increased, as the state police have opted to reduce their rural patrol coverage.

Overdoses of prescribed medications or illicit substances continue to plague our country. My staff responded to 20 overdoses in 2022, we were able to save 11 lives. This number does not include the saves by jail staff in 2022. As the disorder continues to increase, I wish to make it clear that we at the Sheriff's Office will always support our citizens with substance dependency disorders by providing avenues that can assist with their recovery.

The patrol division welcomes Sean Dixon and Eric Thiess to our team. Deputy Dixon has 12 years of full-time experience working as a law enforcement officer. Deputy Thiess came to us from our correctional division. Deputy Thiess is currently at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy attending the 18-week program to become a certified law enforcement officer.

My agency continues to receive federal funds to conduct patrol details specifically related to motor vehicle violations throughout the county. Kennebec County Deputies continue to excel statistically for the number of interdictions for drug related criminal activities.

Through the federal grants system, we were able to purchase a Can-Am UTV and trailer to assist us with our duties serving all of Kennebec County. This tool is available to any municipality or law enforcement agency within the county.

Our Civil Process Deputies serve legal documents on behalf of attorneys, the courts, citizens, local, and state government, landlords and other entities. In 2022, the three civil deputies received over 7,441 requests for service in Kennebec County. This is an increase from 2021 by over 300 services. Some of the services include civil summons & complaints, foreclosures, evictions, small claims, child support notices from the State and enforcement of court orders and writs to name a few.

We welcome any questions regarding civil service to be made to the office. Kennebec is very lucky to have Chief Civil Deputy Harry McKenney, who just happens to be the go-to guy on civil service matters statewide. Keep up good work Chief!

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 1810 inmate intakes. This is an increase from 2022. The offenses committed by defendants included everything from Trespass to Homicide.

Substance abuse and the proper treatment of citizens with mental illness continue to be two primary concerns at the Correctional Facility. We have improved our medical and mental health services at Kennebec to help manage the needs of those incarcerated.

Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are asked to work and earn time off their sentences if applicable. Inmates who are a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. One may think that this only benefits the county, or our local municipalities, but it does not. It also benefits the inmate population as well.

We are committed to providing innovative programs to reduce crimes, assist victims, and to provide enhanced public safety. We acknowledge the ever-growing opiate addiction problem nationwide and have committed to partnerships at the Federal, State and Local levels to combat this problem. Our approach is aggressive enforcement, education, treatment and recovery for those afflicted with this horrible addiction.

The big news for my staff in 2022 was the purchase of 73 Winthrop Street in Augusta. This building will house the entire sheriff's office divisions which include administration, patrol, detectives and the civil division. Our mailing address will remain the same. More information on the move to follow within the next couple of months. Me and my staff are very excited to move into a larger and much newer building that we can call our own.

As your Sheriff, and moving forward into 2023, I remain committed to serving the hard-working taxpayers of this county, their families and our visitors, honorably, professionally, and by using good common sense and judgement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Mason, Sheriff