

Working for Maine families

Linda and her husband, Curtis Scamman, have three children together. Their youngest daughter Katie attends Simmons College in Boston. Libby Scamman Collins is a teacher at Young School and resides in Waterboro with her husband, Rick, and their two children. Joey Scamman lives in Saco with his wife, Jessica, and operates a sod farm.

"Building a brighter future means making sure all Maine families thrive, giving our children new opportunities to succeed and helping to grow our communities and local businesses. As a state legislator, I am working to making this vision a reality." - Rep. Linda Valentino



FIGHTING RISING PROPERTY TAXES

We worked quickly this session to provide Maine people with immediate and direct property tax refunds and reductions, and sent more state funds to cities and towns to help fight increases in local property taxes. This session we:

- ✓ Doubled benefits and expanded eligibility for property tax and rent refunds through the Circuit Breaker Program; now many more middle-income Mainers are eligible for cash refunds of up to \$2,000.
- ✓ More than doubled the Homestead exemption to offer homeowners a full \$13,000 tax exemption on valuation.
- ✓ Provided \$250 million in new state aid for local education to help cities and towns to lower their property taxes.
- ✓ Enacted spending caps on local, county and state levels of government.

For a property tax or rent refund application please contact me, Rep. Linda M. Valentino at 282-5227.

MAKING HEALTH CARE AFFORDABLE

Maine families and businesses need access to affordable, quality health care to ensure their security and health. In an effort to help guarantee access to affordable health care we:

- ✓ Strengthened Dirigo Health – Maine’s first-in-the-nation low-cost health care plan for small businesses and working families; the new plan is now the fastest growing in the state.
- ✓ Worked to reduce the cost of prescription drugs for Mainers by creating a plan to purchase lower cost prescription drugs from other states and countries like Canada.
- ✓ Protected the health care coverage of nearly 40,000 Mainers, ensuring the cost of their care is not passed on to other Mainers through higher insurance premiums.

For more information on Dirigo Health and how to apply, visit the Web site: www.dirigohealth.maine.gov.

SAFEGUARDING MAINE FAMILIES

We passed many new laws that will protect the health and security of Maine families and make our communities safer. This session we:

- ✓ Required drug companies to make public the results of all clinical trial results – good and bad – for new prescription drugs.
- ✓ Established the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund to help educate parents and prevent lead poisoning of Maine children, and required landlords to disclose lead-paint risks.
- ✓ Protected Mainers from identity theft by requiring businesses to let you know if your personal and financial information has been stolen.
- ✓ Made our communities safer by extending the sex offender registry back an additional 10 years.
- ✓ Passed new laws to curb the production of methamphetamines.

... and working for Saco Constituents.

BILLS I SPONSORED

In addition to sponsoring my “Gift Card” bill, I was very successful appearing before other committees on numerous bills that were enacted into law that I co-sponsored or endorsed, such as:

- ✓ Education Committee - LD 564 – Commonly know as the “Anti-bully” Act, which amended school codes of conduct to address harassment and bullying.
- ✓ Health & Human Services Committee – LD 21 – Gave control to municipalities over allowing methamphetamine clinics in their town.
- ✓ Criminal Justice Committee – LD 670 – Allowed municipalities to designate parks and playgrounds as “drug free” zones so fines and penalties would be increased for violators.

CONSTITUENT WORK

I am happy to report that many, many Saco citizens called, emailed, and visited me in Augusta. Although the majority of my time is spent at committee meetings, caucuses, and on the House floor, the constituent work is the most gratifying. Examples of events that I attended outside the State House and people I hosted at the State House are:

- ✓ MERC meetings in Biddeford, Saco, and with the Governor in his office.
- ✓ Save our Shipyard meetings and rallies in Portsmouth, Augusta and at the Sea Dogs.
- ✓ Creative Works Systems and Shaker openings at the Saco Museum.
- ✓ Saco First Responders award ceremony at Saco City Hall.
- ✓ Saturday morning constituent meetings at the Dyer Library for anyone to “drop-in.”
- ✓ Mrs. Turnage’s and Ms. Robinson’s classes from CK Burns School.
- ✓ Mr. Boothby’s students from Saco Middle School.
- ✓ Phyllis Deschambeault on her 95th birthday receiving a legislative sentiment I introduced.
- ✓ Bob Quentin from Saco & Biddeford Savings Bank on Maine Banker’s Day.
- ✓ Don Charland & John Anagnostis from Dyer Library on Maine Cultural Advocacy Day.
- ✓ Arthur Prentiss and other many other “Saco Grangers” on Maine State Grange Day.
- ✓ Charlie Graffam when he came up to sit in on proposed Maine Sunday Hunting hearings.
- ✓ Carl Stasio, headmaster at Thornton, for a MEIS educational breakfast meeting.
- ✓ Ed McGeachey and Sue Hadiaras on a Southern Maine Medical presentation.



With students from the CK Burns School in the House chamber



Presenting a legislative sentiment to members of Save Our Shipyard during the BRAC process



With Governor Baldacci and constituent Phyllis Deschambeault at the State House on her 95th Birthday

Representative Linda M. Valentino

Dear Neighbor,

The first session of my first term has been a whirlwind. Issues such as property tax relief, BRAC closings, a new racino, term limits, consumer protection, and school conduct inspired me to be very vocal and effective in debates on the floor, in caucus, and in committee.

I also learned about the “two Maines”, and took time to do an extensive trip this summer through Northern Maine, Washington County, and the Highlands. I wanted to see the places we talk, debate and legislate for, always remembering that my first priority is to do the best for my constituents in Saco.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your representative in Augusta. As always, I appreciate hearing your thoughts, concerns and suggestions. The *best* way to reach me is by Email, or you can call me at home at 282-5227.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Valentino

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



P.O. Box 1049
Saco, ME 04072

Representative
Linda M. Valentino



Representative Linda M. Valentino

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

REPRESENTING
HOUSE DISTRICT 134
PART OF SACO
Member:
Legal and Veterans
Affairs Committee

Committee Oversight:
Veterans Issues
National Guard
Elections/Voting
Campaign Finance
Liquor/Tobacco Laws
Lottery Operations
Fairs/Beano/Raffles
Racinos/OTB's

CONTACT:

Mailing:
Rep. Linda Valentino
PO Box 1049
Saco, Maine 04072

Home Address:
Fire Lane 2
Boom Road, Saco

Home Phone:
(207) 282-5227

At the State House:
(800) 423-2900

Email:
RepLinda.Valentino@
Legislature.maine.gov



(From L to R): Lloyd Lafountain, superintendent of the Bureau of Financial Institutions; Rep. Gary Plummer; Rep. Linda Valentino; Gov. John Baldacci; Rep. Deb Pelletier-Simpson, House Chair of the Judiciary Committee; Rep. Bob Duplessie, Asst. House Majority Leader; and David Lemoine, State Treasurer.

Valentino's Bill Ends Dormancy Fees on Gift Cards

Several state officials turned out for the signing of LD 1084, which was a bill sponsored by Rep. Linda Valentino. Many store gift cards were charging fees of up to \$2 per month if a card was not used, meaning that a gift card originally purchased for \$20 might be worthless if not used within two years. This new law prohibits issuers of gift cards from charging dormancy fees and requires any up-front transaction charges to be fully disclosed to consumers at the time of purchase. Rep. Valentino lobbied intensely for this bill before the Judiciary Committee. On three separate votes when the Judiciary Committee recommended passage of this bill, lobbyists representing banks and credit cards fought to defeat the bill. Only through Valentino's relentless pursuit of this bill, by her working closely with State Treasurer David Lemoine and all members of the Judiciary Committee, including Senate Judiciary Chair Barry Hobbins, was it able to become law.

"After an eight hour intensive workshop before the Judiciary committee, I learned two valuable lessons from working this bill." Said Valentino. "I learned the intense pressure of the lobbyists, and not to give up until the Governor signs the bill into law."

"Some Legislators serve years and never have a bill they introduce become law. For Rep. Valentino to get this meaningful piece of consumer protection legislation passed into law in her first session is a remarkable accomplishment."

Former Senator Peter Danton