



If you have any questions, or need help with a state issue, please contact me.

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**REP. LINDA VALENTINO**  
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## Rep. Linda Valentino

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for allowing me to represent you in Augusta. My second term has been extremely busy, and we are not done yet. I will be continuing my work to bring property tax reform to a vote in the next session.

This newsletter is only a small sampling of the legislation that was passed last session.

For additional in-depth highlights of what I worked on during the 2007 session, please go to [www.housedemocrats.maine.gov/lvalentino](http://www.housedemocrats.maine.gov/lvalentino).

It has been a pleasure serving you and corresponding with the numerous constituents who have called and emailed me with their concerns. Please feel free to email me at [lmvalentino54@yahoo.com](mailto:lmvalentino54@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

*Linda*  
Linda Valentino

### Property Tax and Rent Rebate

Applications for the 2007 Property Tax and Rent Refund Program are now available. Over 200,000 Maine homeowners and renters are eligible, and you may be entitled to up to a \$2,000 rebate on property taxes or rent paid during 2006. The application deadline for the 2007 program is June 2, 2008.

**You May Qualify If:**

- You do not have a spouse or dependent(s) and your 2006 household income was \$80,750 or less; or
- You have a spouse or dependent(s) and your 2006 household income was \$105,750 or less

**AND**

- Your 2006 property tax was more than 4% of your 2006 household income; or,
- The rent you paid in 2006 was more than 20% of your 2006 household income

NOTE: Low-income seniors do not need to meet these requirements.

Call or send me an e-mail for an application, or if you have questions about the program.

# State Representative Linda Valentino

## 2007 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Thank you for taking a moment to read this Legislative update. It is my hope that this newsletter will help inform you of the new laws passed by the Maine Legislature, and tell you more about my efforts to represent our community and to build for Maine's future by:

**Protecting and  
Enhancing Maine's  
Unrivalled Quality of  
Life**

**Encouraging Innovation  
and Economic Growth**

**Providing Opportunity  
Through Education**

**Ensuring that Maine  
Government is Efficient  
and Effective**



Rep. Valentino (right) watches as Governor Baldacci signs the new state budget into law

Please contact me with your input, or for assistance on any state issue:

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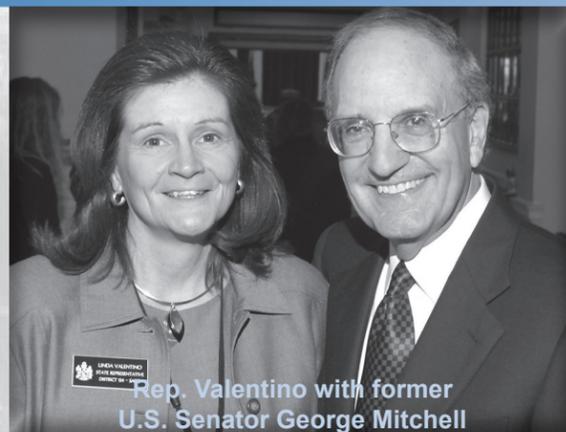
## Maine House of Representatives

# REP. LINDA VALENTINO

Linda Valentino is serving her second term representing part of Saco in the Maine House of Representatives. She currently serves on the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and is a past member of the Legal and Veterans Affairs Committee.

She is a former commissioner of the Maine Liquor and Lottery Commission and was elected for three terms to the Saco City Council, where she served as deputy mayor and chair of the Finance Committee.

She and her husband, Curtis Scamman, live on Boom Road in Saco. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.



## Passed a balanced budget that makes funding for health care and education more sustainable, without raising taxes

- Cut spending in the governor's original budget proposal by \$114 million
- Developed more sustainable long-term funding in school and health care services
- Passed historic school consolidation plan projected to save \$34.5 million in the first year and met the citizen-voted mandate to increase state funding for K-12 public education to 55%
- Kept tuition hikes down at the University of Maine System and expanded access to higher education in the Community College System
- Eased the prison overcrowding crisis, which jeopardized the safety of corrections officers, and made progress in finding long-term solutions, without shipping prisoners out of state
- Provided additional support for domestic violence prevention

## Protected consumers, seniors, students and workers' rights

- Protected Maine homeowners from predatory lending practices, and seniors from financial abuse
- Established a commission to review children's issues, including child development, care, and visitation rights
- Created a new tax credit for Maine college graduates to help pay their student loans if they stay in the state
- Reformed unemployment - decreasing unemployment taxes to Maine businesses by \$68 million, establishing a workers' training program and eliminating both the social security unemployment offset and the sunset on part-time unemployment benefits - measures directly supporting Maine's senior citizens
- Prohibited advertisements in drug-prescribing software; required pharmacies to keep co-payments down; protected seniors from manipulative insurance sales practices when they're purchasing Medicare products; and required insurance companies to cover hearing aids for children up to age 18
- Passed a \$295 million bipartisan bond package which will generate over \$380 million in matching funds, stimulate the Maine economy and create jobs with improvements to our roads, bridges, airports, waterfronts, colleges, environmental cleanup projects, Land for Maine's Future and much more!



## House District 134

Serving as a voice for the people of Saco.

## Legislative and Constituent Work

- Arranged public forum for Commissioner Sue Gendron to come to Saco City Hall to answer questions from officials and citizens on the proposed school consolidation bill
- Presented lengthy testimony before the Taxation Committee advocating for the need for comprehensive tax reform
- Toured Windham Correctional Center when critical officer safety and overcrowding concerns arose and met with over 200 corrections employees for a Q & A session
- Participated in high-level discussions with three major New York bond houses to enhance Maine's credit rating
- Worked extensively in Saco and Augusta with a citizen group opposed to a CMP high-voltage line expansion near Saco Middle School
- Consulted with the governor's staff and the director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency to seek relief from damages caused by Valentine's Day and Patriots' Day storms to Saco residents and Saco's infrastructure
- **At the State House:** Attended Saco Trails press conference with John Andrews; gave tours to all Saco 4th grade classes; attended Maine Association of Independent Schools breakfast with Thornton Academy Headmaster Carl Stasio; presented Legislative Sentiment honoring Sherwood Libby for his years of service on the Saco River Corridor Commission
- **In Saco:** Attended graduation at Thornton Academy, Saco Adult Education, and Saco Middle School; submitted legislative sentiments to retiring faculty members at Thornton Academy and helped numerous people apply for property tax relief under the Circuit Breaker program

## Successful Bills I Sponsored

- **Insurance** - LD 841 allows unmarried dependent children to stay on their parents' insurance policy up until the age of 25, even if they are not enrolled in college.
- **Natural Resources** - LD 1431 changed the definition of "host community" to include any immediate contiguous town that may have a financial impact from a solid waste disposal facility
- **Utilities** - LD 398 would require high voltage electrical lines to be buried underground near schools and residences - this bill has been carried over to next session

## New Committee Appointment

In addition to my work as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am pleased to announce my appointment to a special review committee:

- Committee to Review the Taxation of Slot Machines - Created by Executive Order of the Governor to review the current slot tax structure and revenue sharing requirements

