

Proposal: Giving Back More Than Half the Budget Surplus to Maine Taxpayers

Maine people are grappling with the increased costs as a result of pandemic-driven inflation, ranging from higher energy costs to increased prices of everyday goods. While the Governor cannot control the impact of COVID-19 on global markets, she can make sure that we deliver to Maine people the resources they need to deal with these higher costs. To help them, Governor Mills is proposing giving back more than half the budget surplus to the taxpayers of Maine, in the form of \$850 direct checks, consistent with the calls of Republican lawmakers.

These givebacks will return more than half of the budget surplus – a total of \$682 million in one-time General Fund dollars – to an estimated 800,000 Maine people to help them navigate rising costs due to global inflation and supply-chain impacts, and other global economic disruptions driven by the pandemic. Givebacks are a one-time infusion into Maine families and will position Maine's economy for continued post-pandemic prosperity.

Givebacks will be sent to those who file a 2021 Maine income tax return by October 31, 2022 as a full-time resident, with the first round of relief slated for July 1, 2022 and delivered on a rolling basis through the end of the year. Those eligible must not be claimed as a dependent, and must have an income of less than:

- \$75,000 if filing single OR if married and filing separately
- \$112,500 if filing as head of household
- \$150,000 if filing jointly

Income will be based on the Federal Adjusted Gross Income (FAGI) from filers' tax returns. In the case of joint filers, both individuals will receive a giveback so long as the FAGI meets income thresholds.

This give back proposal is consistent with the calls of Republican lawmakers – including: [Senate Minority Leader Jeff Timberlake](#) (R-Androscoggin), [Ranking Member of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee Sawin Millett](#) (R-Waterford), and [Senate Assistant Minority Leader Matt Pouliot](#) (R-Kennebec) – to return half the surplus to Maine taxpayers in the form of direct checks.