



Action Alert Regarding Changes to Non Profit Property Tax Exemption

January 23, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

[Gov. Paul LePage's 2016/17 budget](#) proposes to eliminate state revenue sharing with municipalities in exchange for allowing localities to tax larger nonprofit organizations, **including archives and museums**. Traditionally, revenue sharing provides roughly \$60 million to municipalities to pay for services and reduce property taxes. The Governor's proposal allows towns and cities to offset those losses by collecting property taxes from previously exempt nonprofits with \$500,000 or more of assessed value. Churches and government-owned entities would remain tax-exempt. The property/organization would be entitled to a 50% exemption (rather than 100%) with respect to the aggregate value *exceeding* \$500,000.

WHAT IS MAM DOING?

Maine Archives and Museums (MAM) is coordinating a response to this proposal. In preparation, **MAM is seeking input from museums, archives, libraries, historical societies, and other collecting institutions** regarding the impact this proposal will have on non-profit organizations throughout Maine. This 5 question survey should take only a few minutes to complete.



Take Our Survey! [MAM's Impact of Changes to Non-Profit Property Tax Exemption Survey](#)

MAM will compile this information and include it in our response which will be distributed to our members, our extensive list of contacts, our representatives in the legislature and issued as a press release to media outlets throughout the state.

MAM will continue to monitor this issue with updates to members via email and through our social media sties.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Take our [Impact of Changes to Non-Profit Property Tax Exemption Survey](#)**
 - This 5 question survey will take only minutes to complete and help inform MAM's response.
- **Read up on the issue** to fully understand the impact this budget proposal and policy change would have on your organization.
 - ["LePage's tax reform plan rattles Maine towns, nonprofits," *Portland Press Herald*, January 12, 2015](#)
 - ["Review of Governor LePage's Proposed State Budget," *Maine Municipal Association*, January 12, 2015](#)
 - ["Governor's Plan...Sparks Opposition," *MPBN News*, January 12, 2015](#)
 - ["Statement on the preservation of property tax reform," *Maine Association of Non Profits*](#)
 - [MAM's RESPONSE](#) to Governor LePage's characterization of non-profits as "takers," Nov. 18, 2014
- **Contact your legislators.** It is important that legislators hear from every single nonprofit that would be affected by this proposal.
 - [MAM's Contact Your Representative page](#) contains links to your state officials, town councils and local chambers of commerce.

- Maine Association of Non Profits (MANP) has prepared helpful [Talking Points](#) on this issue.
- **Write a letter** to your local newspaper/media outlets about how this policy change will impact your organization and your efforts to effectively carry out your mission within your community.
 - [Tools for Contacting Media Outlets](#)
- **Alert your supporters** (board, members, sponsors, donors and other constituents) to this issue and invite them to advocate on behalf of your organization.
- **Prepare your own Economic Impact Statement.** By understanding your organization's impact in your community, you can better argue your case regarding the non-profit property tax exemption.
 - [MAM's Economic Impact Statement](#)
 - [Basic Tools to Get Started](#)
- **Connect with us** to monitor updates on this important issue.
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- **Advocate Year Round** with [MAM's Advocacy Toolkit](#)

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