

## Action Alert!

# Non-Profit Property Tax Exemption AND Charitable Giving Deduction



Please pass this information on to your board, your memberships and other stakeholders

## What's New

1. MAM [gave testimony](#) at the Public Hearing on the Governor's Budget of the Joint Committees on Appropriations and Taxation on February 19, 2015 at which time we learned that the **governor's budget proposal includes removing the tax deduction for charitable giving. THIS WILL IMPACT ALL MAM MEMBERS' ABILITY TO RAISE FUNDS.**
2. Governor LePage held his second Town Hall Meeting to discuss components of and answer questions to his proposed biennial budget on Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> at Husson University in Bangor. <http://bangordailynews.com/2015/03/04/politics/lepage-vows-to-spend-rest-of-my-days-fighting-opponents-of-income-tax-cuts/>
3. There are **five more town halls** expected on the following dates (one more will be added in Southern Maine). More information regarding specific locations will be available in the coming days.

**March 11, Lewiston**

**March 19, Presque Isle**

**April 16, Ellsworth**

**April 28, Belfast**

4. The Joint Standing Committee on Taxation has scheduled the following days for work on the portions of the biennial budget that are under the policy jurisdiction of the Committee. These **work sessions** will take place in Room 127 of the State House in Augusta.

**Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm**

Homestead property tax exemption, Part F

Partial taxation of some certain nonprofits, Part E

Revenue sharing, Part L

**Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm**

Elimination of itemized deductions, Part K-23

Elimination of Charitable Giving Deduction, Part K-22

The Public is welcomed to attend these work sessions. Quite often, committee members may have questions that you may very likely be able to answer for them if asked. **We strongly encourage you to attend these work sessions** if you are able.

**MAM will continue to monitor the Governor's Budget proposal and keep you informed with updates and any relevant changes and additional alerts.**

## What Can You Do?

1. **Contact your legislators.** It is important that legislators hear from every single nonprofit that would be affected by this proposal.
  - a. [MAM's Contact Your Representative page](#) contains links to your state officials, town councils and local chambers of commerce.
  - b. Maine Association of Non Profits (MANP) has prepared helpful talking points on this issue: [www.NonprofitMaine.org/2015TaxUpdates](http://www.NonprofitMaine.org/2015TaxUpdates).
2. **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.
  - a. [Tools for Contacting Media Outlets](#)
3. **Alert your supporters** (board, members, sponsors, donors and other constituents) to this issue and invite them to advocate on behalf of your organization.
4. **Prepare your own Economic Impact Statement.** By understanding your organization's impact in your community, you can better argue your case in favor of protecting the non-profit property tax exemption.
  - a. [MAM's Economic Impact Statement](#)
  - b. [Basic Tools to Get Started](#)
5. **Connect with us** via social media to monitor updates on this important issue.



6. **Advocate Year Round** with [MAM's Advocacy Toolkit](#)

## Resources

- The Governor's biennial budget document can be found in its entirety at: <http://www.maine.gov/budget/documents/2016-2017BiennialBudgetLanguage1-9-15.pdf>
- MAM's [Talking Points](#) on Protecting Property Tax Exemptions and the Tax Deduction for Charitable Giving
- [MAM's Response](#) to the Governor's Budget
- [MAM's Testimony](#) at the Public Hearing on the Governor's Budget of the Joint Committees on Appropriations and Taxation on February 19, 2015
- Maine Association of Non Profits efforts in Protecting Property Tax Exemptions: [www.nonprofitmaine.org/advocate/issues-and-campaigns/tax-policy/protecting-nonprofit-property-tax-exemption/](http://www.nonprofitmaine.org/advocate/issues-and-campaigns/tax-policy/protecting-nonprofit-property-tax-exemption/)
- Maine Association of Non Profits efforts in Encouraging Charitable Giving: [www.nonprofitmaine.org/advocate/issues-and-campaigns/charitable-giving-volunteerism/encouraging-charitable-contributions/](http://www.nonprofitmaine.org/advocate/issues-and-campaigns/charitable-giving-volunteerism/encouraging-charitable-contributions/)