

HOW TO WRITE & SUBMIT LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR

Writing and submitting LTEs to your local paper is a valuable way to **influence public opinion**. Believe it or not, the LTE section is one of the most read in the whole newspaper!



TIPS FOR WRITING AN IMPACTFUL LTE

- State your main message **immediately** in the opening
- Focus on **ONE specific issue** per LTE... not multiple topics
- Use plain language that's easy to understand
- **Make it personal**, as that's memorable... share a brief story or personal experience
- Mention **relevant expertise** early (I'm a parent / business owner / affected resident)
- Explain **how it affects everyday Mainers'** lives
- **Edit ruthlessly**, as most papers limit to 150-250 words and every word counts



HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR LTE

- **Submit to one outlet at a time**, as most will want to print it exclusively
- All letters must be addressed, and written, **to the editor**
- Submissions are usually limited to **one published letter per person every 30 days**
- **Must include:** writer's name, town of residence, and telephone number
- Most papers will confirm letters they intend to publish with a phone call
- Submit to one of Maine's regional newspapers via link:
www.bangordailynews.com/submit/
www.sunjournal.com/letters-to-the-editor/
www.pressherald.com/reader-services/letters-editor/

The Bottom Line:

IF WE WANT MAINE TO REFLECT OUR VALUES...

then we need to talk about those values in the public square! Writing and submitting LTEs is an important way to speak up and make your voice heard.

LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR

SAMPLES

To the Editor,

Maine needs to get its spending under control, because families like mine are already stretched thin. I'm a parent and a small business owner in central Maine, and every month I have to make tough choices about what we can afford and what we can't. When costs go up, we cut back. We don't get to raise taxes on our neighbors to cover our mistakes. Augusta should have to live by the same rules.

Over the past few years, state spending has grown far faster than household incomes. That growth doesn't come from nowhere; it shows up in higher taxes, higher fees, and fewer opportunities for working families to get ahead. When the state overspends, it leaves less room for families to save, hire, or invest in their communities.

I've had to delay hiring and put off equipment upgrades because costs keep rising. Friends of mine are working extra hours just to stay even. Meanwhile, the state keeps adding programs without asking whether they're working or whether we can afford them long-term. Fiscal responsibility isn't extreme, it's common sense. Maine should focus on core services, demand accountability, and stop spending money it doesn't have.

Sincerely,
Jane Smith, Dover-Foxcroft

To the Editor,

I'm a homeowner in coastal Maine, and like many people, I opened my electric bill this winter and did a double take. Even though we're careful with energy use, our bill keeps climbing. For families on fixed incomes or small businesses trying to stay afloat, these costs are becoming unbearable.

Supporters of solar subsidies promised lower rates, but that's not what's happening. Instead, everyday ratepayers are being forced to cover the cost of expensive incentives and long-term contracts that benefit developers, not working Mainers. These costs are baked into our electric bills whether we can afford them or not.

I don't oppose renewable energy. But I do oppose policies that shift costs onto families who are already struggling. When energy gets more expensive, it affects everything; heating homes, running shops, and keeping groceries affordable.

For my family, higher electricity bills mean cutting back elsewhere. For some neighbors, it means choosing between heat and medicine. That's not progress. Maine needs an energy policy that prioritizes affordability and reliability, not subsidies that drive up costs.

Sincerely,
Jack Miller, Rockland



For more information, visit our resource page at

LeadMaine.com