



**Maine State Representative**  
**Meredith Strang Burgess**  
*Your voice for District 108*

**Meredith**  
 Strang Burgess

**Cumberland, Long Island, Chebeague Island  
 and part of North Yarmouth**

**Constant Contact Survey Results**

**Survey Name:** Mar 23 2010 Survey

**Response Status:** Partial & Completed

**Filter:** None

May 20, 2010 5:48:07 PM




Saltwater Fishing registry – LD 1432 – Marine Resources Background: A voluntary National Saltwater Angler Registry went into effect this year for only anglers fishing for five anadromous fish species (fish that migrate between salt and fresh water) or fishing outside the three mile state limit. Beginning in January, 2011 these specific anglers will also need to pay a national registry fee (amount TBD). The Legislature is currently debating the creation of a Maine Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry, which sets registration fees for recreational fishing for all saltwater fish (amount TBD) from \$5 to \$15 depending on age and residency. If Maine passes such a law, it will supersede the new federal registry. Any revenue raised from the Maine saltwater registry would be used for the implementation, administration and enforcement of the Maine registry. If enacted, the law would take effect January 1, 2011. Proponents of a state license believe that Maine should be proactive and enact a state license to ensure the money stays in Maine. And have concerns that enforcement of the national registry will take away from the already limited Dept. of Marine Resources staff.

Opponents of the bill state only a small percentage of current saltwater anglers would be subject to the federal requirement but a state registry would apply to all saltwater anglers and is a new tax to generate revenue for the Department of Marine Resources.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Support			74	41.8 %
Opposed			82	46.3 %
No Response(s)			21	11.8 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>177</b>	<b>100%</b>




Broadband - LD 1646, An Act to Establish a Broadband Policy in Maine, Sponsored by Rep. Sean Flaherty Background: A measure before the Legislature establishes as a State goal achieving by the end of 2012, 100 percent broadband universal availability for all residential and business locations in Maine and developing a sustainable forward-looking infrastructure that will promote affordable Internet service that exceeds minimum broadband service in all areas of the State. In addition to defining "broadband," State policy would be set up to encourage private investment in broadband infrastructure and subsidizing discounts. Supporters believe that the bill will help ensure that state agencies are not impeding private investment.

Opponents believe the goal of 2012 is unrealistic, the definition of "broadband" will be outdated in the near future and that the subsidized discount program is not good policy.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Support			55	31.0 %
Opposed			95	53.6 %
No Response(s)			27	15.2 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>177</b>	<b>100%</b>



Dark Fiber LD 1778, An Act To Enable the Installation of Broadband Infrastructure" (Emergency) Sponsored by Representative Cynthia Dill Background: The Legislature is looking at establishing a new entity known as a "dark fiber provider." It describes Maine Fiber Company and its 3-Ring Binder project, which is an entity providing fiber-optic cable without equipment for transmitting communications and that provides dark fiber to all carriers and end users on an open-access basis and without unreasonable discrimination and is subject to grant-related requirements, restrictions and conditions imposed by the Federal Government and secured by security interests granted to the Federal Government. Supporters of the measure believe the 3-Ring Binder project is an important one by enabling Maine Fiber to attach to utility poles, and will preserve existing jobs and create new ones.

Opponents believe Maine Fiber should file to become a utility and proceed under existing rules as well as pay its share of costs of settling disputes.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Support			49	27.6 %
Opposed			83	46.8 %
No Response(s)			45	25.4 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>177</b>	<b>100%</b>

ATV stops LD 1536, "An Act To Amend the Standards by Which Game Wardens May Stop All-terrain Vehicles when Operating on Private Property" Sponsored by Representative Ralph Sarty Background: Current law provides that a law enforcement officer may stop an all-terrain vehicle to ascertain whether a violation of the law has occurred if the law enforcement officer has a reasonable and articulable suspicion to believe that a violation of the law has taken place. A bill is being considered that allows a law enforcement officer to stop an all-terrain vehicle operated on privately owned property without a reasonable and articulable suspicion to believe a violation of the law has occurred. Proponents of the bill state the Warden Service can not enforce the requirement of landowner permission to operate an ATV on private land if they must meet the requirement of articulable suspicion, and that landowners may start posting their land.


Opponents of the legislation state that other law enforcement officers must have reasonable and articulable suspicion to believe a violation of the law has occurred and that game wardens would have more power than other law enforcement officers if this measure is enacted.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Support			85	48.0 %
Opposed			78	44.0 %
No Response(s)			14	7.9 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>177</b>	<b>100%</b>

Paid Sick Leave LD 1665 "An Act To Prevent the Spread of H1N1"(Emergency) Sponsored by President Elizabeth Mitchell Background: A bill was introduced this session that would have required an employer to give an employee a maximum of either 26 accrued hours of paid sick leave per year or 52 accrued hours of paid sick leave per year, depending on the size of the business. The bill has been altered to prohibit Maine employers from firing workers who take sick days, paid or unpaid. It would apply to five working days per 12-month period.

Proponents state the measure would help prevent the spread of diseases such as swine flu and avoid costly hospitalizations and emergency room visits.




Opponents believe that there is not problem of people losing a job because of sick leave.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Support			43	24.2 %
Opposed			126	71.1 %
No Response(s)			8	4.5 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>177</b>	<b>100%</b>

Forestry workers LD 1552, "An Act To Improve Employment Opportunities for Maine Workers in the Forest Industry" - Sponsored by Representative John Martin Background: The Legislature will soon be voting on a bill that would prohibit landowners from participating in Maine's Tree Growth program if they employ foreign loggers. The tree growth law offers landowners tax incentives for managing the land for timber production.

Supporters believe the measure is needed to help stiffen the penalties for outfits that violate foreign labor laws.




Opponents of the bill believe it would harm Maine's forest products sector, and that a small percentage of Canadian loggers are needed to work in areas too remote to attract Maine workers.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Support			57	32.2 %
Opposed			95	53.6 %
No Response(s)			25	14.1 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>177</b>	<b>100%</b>













Solitary confinement LD 1611, "An Act To Ensure Humane Treatment for Special Management Prisoners"  
Sponsored by Representative James Schatz

Background: A proposal is before the Legislature that would change the way the state handles prisoners who are segregated from the general population. The original bill would limit a prisoner's segregation to 45 days, except in some cases, and prohibit solitary confinement of prisoners with severe mental illness. An amendment is being considered that would ensure that oversight of the special management unit lies with a legislative committee, rather than solely within the Department of Corrections. Supporters of the bill believe safeguards for extended stays must be provided to prisoners.





Opponents have stated that they have found no evidence that the current system is being abused.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Support			53	29.9 %
Opposed			107	60.4 %
No Response(s)			17	9.6 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>177</b>	<b>100%</b>

Bond issues Lawmakers will be formulating a bond package soon to send out to Maine voters. Please let me know which of the following areas should be considered as a part of the final bond package:






Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Highway Reconstruction (\$28 million to \$47.5 million)			88	52.3 %
Montreal, Maine & Atlantic (\$20 million)			30	17.8 %
Energy Efficiency In Schools (\$20 million)			68	40.4 %
Drinking Water & Wastewater Projects (\$6.7 million to \$7 million)			67	39.8 %
Lewiston-Auburn Rail (\$5 million)			25	14.8 %
Ocean Gateway Deep Water Pier (\$8 million)			43	25.5 %
Small Harbor Improvement (\$1 million)			33	19.6 %
University of Maine - Wind Energy (\$5 million)			58	34.5 %
Maine Industrial Energy Efficiency Grant Program (\$5 million)			47	27.9 %
Maine Dental School (\$7 million)			43	25.5 %
No bonds should be issued			41	24.4 %
Other			5	2.9 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>168</b>	<b>100%</b>

Taxes The projection for the revenue shortfall for the remaining 15 months of the two-year budget cycle is close to \$310 million. Some have suggested that raising sales taxes should be considered as a way to balance the budget and fund programs for Maine's most needy citizens. Please check the following options you believe should be considered.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Apply the 5 percent sales tax to items currently not subject to the sales tax			22	12.7 %
Increase Increase the sales tax from 5 percent to 6 percent on items currently subject to the sales tax			54	31.2 %
The current sales tax law should not be changed			79	45.6 %
Other			30	17.3 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>173</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Taxes

Another way to fill the budget shortfall and also address the increase in youth smoking is to increase the tax on tobacco. Please check the following options that you would consider:

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Increase the tax on a pack of cigarettes by \$1			69	38.9 %
Increase the tax on tobacco products, such as smokeless tobacco, cigars and pipe tobacco to a total of \$1 per ounce			33	18.6 %
Tobacco products should not be subject to additional tax increases			52	29.3 %
Other			15	8.4 %
No Response(s)			8	4.5 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>177</b>	<b>100%</b>