Table of Contents
TO OUR READERS ........ 6

THE MARGARET CHASE SMITH ESSAY

Bite-Sized Democracy: The Virtues of Incremental Change
Peter Mills ......................... 8

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margaret Chase Smith Library Student Essay Contest
David Richards ..................... 10

Health Care Reform for a New Era
Kacie Rioux ......................... 11

THANKS TO OUR REVIEWERS .......... 68
Public Collaboration in Maine: When and Why It Works

The authors present recent Maine case studies and analyze common features of effective public collaboration, a process in which people from multiple sectors (including government and non-governmental entities) work together to find solutions to problems that no single sector could resolve on its own.

Diane E. Kenty, Ann R. Gosline, Jonathan W. Reitman ............ 14

COMMENTARY

Reinventing Maine Government: How Mainers Can Shape a Sustainable Government and a New Prosperity

Alan Caron and David Osborne argue that Maine spends more on government than either similar rural states or the national average. They recommend fundamental, structural change in state and local government to face the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Alan Caron and David Osborne ......................... 32

Cleaning House? Assessing the Impact of Maine’s Clean Elections Act on Electoral Competitiveness


Richard J. Powell ............................................. 44

Putting Equity Back in Reverse Mortgages: Helping Seniors Retire with Dignity

Andrew Helman describes how state policymakers can help some seniors age in place through policies to strengthen private-sector reverse mortgages, whereby individuals who may be “house rich but cash poor” can use their home’s equity to receive income.

Andrew C. Helman ................................. 56