

# Maine Policy Review

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## Editor's Letter

Ann Acheson

*University of Maine - Main*, [ann.acheson@umit.maine.edu](mailto:ann.acheson@umit.maine.edu)

Laura Lindenfeld

*University of Maine*, [laura.a.lindenfeld@maine.edu](mailto:laura.a.lindenfeld@maine.edu)

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## Dear Readers,

Benjamin Franklin is famously quoted as having said, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” We can add aging to that list of certainties—some of us are already elders, but all of us are heading in that direction. Maine has the distinction of being the oldest state in the nation in terms of median age, and we have more baby boomers per capita than any other state. This special issue of *Maine Policy Review* on the topic of aging presents a timely and comprehensive overview of the ramifications presented by this demographic shift. Guest editor Len Kaye, director of the University of Maine Center on Aging, has assembled a distinguished group of contributors who tackle topics ranging from health care, housing, technological innovation, and the economic implications of Maine’s age’s structure to creativity and aging, leadership, age-friendly communities, and the role of philanthropy in responding to community aging. Throughout, the authors explore the policy and planning implications of the aging demographic in the context of Maine’s status as not only the country’s oldest but also its most rural state. We hope you’ll find this issue to be an informative, helpful, and in-depth overview of the important topic of aging in Maine.

Best,



As director of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center (MCSPC), I am extremely pleased that the Policy Center and the University of Maine Center on Aging have built substantive bridges around the important theme of aging. This partnership has resulted in the development and publication of this special issue of *Maine Policy Review*, but the context for our collaboration goes back further. Planning for this aging issue was well underway when I became director in the fall of 2014, and I am delighted to see all the efforts come to fruition in this outstanding publication. When Len Kaye approached me about joining with him and others to propose research and teaching focused on aging as one of the University of Maine’s recognized “emerging areas of excellence” in 2014, I was thrilled to commit the MCSPC’s efforts to this important area. This special issue of *Maine Policy Review*, our premiere publication devoted to important policy issues facing Maine, aims to contribute to a lively, important conversation about how our state can lead the nation in addressing the issues around an aging population.

Best,

