

# Forever Chemicals Needing Immediate Solutions: Mainers’ Preferences for Addressing PFAS Contamination

By Charity Zimmerman, Caroline L. Noblet, and Molly Shea

## APPENDIX

### Appendix A: Information shown to respondents over the course of the survey.

<p><b>A-1</b> <b>Baseline PFAS information shown to all survey respondents.</b></p>	<p>Please read this information before continuing with the survey.</p> <p>There are thousands of chemicals from a family of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (this family of chemicals is often called PFAS). PFAS were used for a long time in many household and industrial products. These chemicals were used to make products able to repel water and resist stains and grease. Some of these chemicals can persist for a very long time once released into the environment and may be called ‘forever chemicals’ (they may also be called PFC, PFOA, PFOS or Chemical GenX). Some of these chemicals can also remain in our bodies long after our exposure has stopped.</p> <p>In this survey we will use the term PFAS to describe this group of chemicals.</p>
<p><b>A-2</b> <b>Information treatment-control text</b></p>	<p>Please read the below information before moving to the next question:</p> <p><b>What are PFAS?</b> PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used around the world since the 1940s. These chemicals do not break down over time. This means they stay in our bodies and in the environment. PFAS are tasteless and odorless chemicals.</p> <p><b>How do PFAS impact human health?</b> Evidence shows that exposure can lead to poor human health including cancer, immune and thyroid problems, liver and kidney disease, and problems with pregnancy including fetal health.</p> <p><b>Where do PFAS come from?</b> PFAS were originally developed by the military for the Manhattan project to create water resistant tanks.</p>

## Appendix B: Proposed programs for funding to address PFAS contamination in Maine.

<p><b>B-1</b> <b>Property Tax Scenario</b></p>	<p>In this section, we will ask you to think about potential programs that could address PFAS in Maine, including how you would like to see money raised and spent. Maine is considering a wide range of options to fund programs that address PFAS contamination in Maine and are seeking input on what options might be supported by Maine residents.</p> <p>One option to fund PFAS programs in Maine could be a program that must be approved by Maine voters. The program would be funded by all Maine households through an increase in <b>annual property taxes</b> (the median property tax in Maine is \$2000 per year).</p> <p>The funds would be used for a variety of strategies to prevent and mitigate PFAS contamination in Maine. In a later question you will be asked about what strategies you would like to see funded. If the proposed program increased your annual property taxes &lt;&lt;\$ amount requested&gt;&gt; <b>annually for 10 years</b>, would you support this program?</p>
<p><b>B-2</b> <b>Sales Tax Scenario</b></p>	<p>In this section, we will ask you to think about potential programs that could address PFAS in Maine, including how you would like to see money raised and spent. Maine is considering a wide range of options to fund programs that address PFAS contamination in Maine and are seeking input on what options might be supported by Maine residents.</p> <p>One option to fund Maine's PFAS programs could be to tax products that contain PFAS. Maine legislation passed in 2021, An Act to Stop Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution, requires companies that use PFAS in their products to report it to the Department of Environmental Protection starting in 2023. Effective in 2030, products containing PFAS may not be sold in Maine, with exceptions.</p> <p>This funding option would increase <b>sales tax</b> on certain products that contain PFAS, above the existing 5.5 percent Maine sales tax.</p> <p>The funds would be used for a variety of strategies to prevent and mitigate PFAS contamination in Maine. In a later question you will be asked about what strategies you would like to see funded. If the proposed program increased sales tax on PFAS containing products by an additional &lt;&lt;percent increase&gt;&gt; <b>for the next 10 years</b>, would you support this program?</p>