A Candidate’s Guide
to a Safer, Stronger Maine

Maine communities should be healthy and prosperous, with good jobs, safe food, safe drinking water, and toxic-free homes for all kids and families. **This is the way Maine should be.** Our elected officials can help get Maine there.

Maine voters want solutions!
**Families and communities across Maine need you to:**

- Protect Maine kids from toxic chemicals in products.
- Make sure food is safe by phasing out toxic chemicals used in food packaging and processing.
- Make sure every family in Maine has access to safe drinking water.
- Create green jobs through climate-friendly technology that turns wood chips into everyday products.
Maine Kids Need Safe Products

Products we bring into our homes are filled with toxic chemicals that have been proven to have dangerous health effects on our families. The effects are so widespread that many doctors refer to this as a “silent epidemic.”

Maine passed the landmark Kid Safe Products Act in 2008 with strong bipartisan votes, creating a model for chemical safety that other states followed. But in Maine, this powerful law has been left unused, leaving children vulnerable to over 30 chemicals of high concern found in products families use everyday.

Our government has only safety tested 200 chemicals out of more than 85,000 chemicals that are on the market. Source: Environmental Protection Agency. About the TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory. (Accessed February 2018)

Kids in Maine need your leadership to implement and modernize Maine’s Kid Safe Products Act, to protect them from toxic chemicals in their homes.

Toxic Chemicals Don’t Belong In Food

Throughout Laura’s pregnancy, she was careful to eat a very healthy diet, get regular exercise, and protect her body and her baby from dangers like alcohol, cigarette smoke, and chemical cleaning products. “But I had no idea that there were other dangers hiding in the foods we eat,” Laura says. After Laura’s completely normal pregnancy, her son was born with a genital birth defect linked to phthalates (THAL-eights).

Industrial toxic chemicals like phthalates, BPA, and PFAS are migrating from food processing and packaging into the food that Maine families eat. Linked to cancer, learning disabilities, and infertility, these chemicals pose the greatest threat to children and pregnant women.

Up to 725,000 American women of childbearing age may be exposed to dangerous levels of phthalates every day, and food is the primary route of exposure. Source: Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel on Phthalates and Phthalates Alternatives. (2014). Report to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Maine families need your support to make sure food is safe by phasing out toxic chemicals used in food packaging and processing.

One example? Recent lab testing discovered toxic phthalates in 10 out of 10 boxed macaroni & cheese powders tested.
Maine Families Deserve Safe Drinking Water

At their home in Mt. Vernon, Wendy’s family drank the well water for nine years before health researchers discovered it had arsenic levels three times the EPA safety limit. Arsenic is colorless and odorless. “Without knowing it, I’d been giving my babies poison. I worry about the effects it could have had on them every single day,” Wendy says.

Tens of thousands of Mainers are exposed to arsenic in their drinking water. Thousands of them are children. Arsenic harms developing brains, and scientists link long-term exposure to bladder, skin, and lung cancers.

1 in 6 wells in Maine has dangerous levels of arsenic. Source: Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention. Maine Tracking Network. (Accessed May 2018)

We Can Protect Maine Families & Firefighters

“He fought till the end,” Therese said when her husband, Tim, a Portland firefighter, died of cancer at just 63 years old. “He was the best husband I could have asked for. He was my hero.”

Cancer is the leading cause of death among professional firefighters and is linked to toxic flame retardants added to products in our homes. These toxic chemicals are also linked to learning disabilities and birth defects, and children and pregnant women breathe them in with household dust.

Maine’s families and firefighters need your support for policies that will protect them from dangerous chemicals.

Good Jobs = Healthy Families

Healthy families create healthy communities, and good jobs help keep families healthy. But in the last four years alone, over 2,000 Mainers have been left unemployed as a result of declining industries.

Meanwhile, global demand for biobased products made from renewable plant-based materials is rapidly rising. In Maine, we can meet this rising demand and create jobs with climate-friendly biobased manufacturing that can turn wood chips into everyday products.


Maine communities need your support for financial incentives to create good jobs through new technology that turns wood chips into everyday products.
OUR MISSION: The Environmental Health Strategy Center works for a world where all people are healthy and thriving in a fair and healthy economy. We protect public health by fighting for safe food and drinking water, toxic-free products, and good green manufacturing jobs.

We bring the best science and authentic voices to the table to achieve collective impact. Working with our advocacy partner, Prevent Harm, we persuade government and industry to embrace common sense solutions. We make a difference in Maine and the nation.

LOCATIONS
565 Congress Street, Suite #204
Portland, ME 04101

6 State Street, Suite #504
Bangor, ME 04401

CONTACT
info@ourhealthyfuture.org
(207) 699-5795
Twitter: @OurHealthFuture
www.ourhealthyfuture.org

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Will you work for a safer and stronger Maine? We can protect health and grow a strong, healthy economy with good jobs and justice for all.

Join us in building a safer, stronger Maine.
Our elected officials can continue to be leaders for strong, common-sense policies for health, jobs, and justice.

We’re Proud of Maine’s Bipartisan Leadership!

We recognized (from left): Rep. Ralph Tucker (D-Brunswick), Sen. Joyce R. Maker (R-Washington), Rep. Walter A. Kumiega III (D-Deer Isle), and Rep. Jeff Pierce (R-Dresden) with 2017 Legislative Leadership Awards for their exceptional leadership, dedication, and courage in working for strong bipartisan support of policies in service to environmental health.