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Monday, October 31, 2016

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MAINE'S MAJOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS AGREE: QUESTION 2 IS BAD FOR MAINE

The Bangor Daily News and MaineToday papers endorse a 'NO' vote on Question 2 on November 8

AUGUSTA, ME – Maine's largest daily newspapers – the Bangor Daily News and MaineToday publications (Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel) – have endorsed a 'no' vote on Question 2 on November 8. All publications agree that Question 2, which seeks a massive tax increase, is the wrong solution for Maine's education funding challenges.

"We are encouraged that Maine's largest daily publications agree that Question 2 is the wrong solution for Maine," said Dana Connors of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, which is leading the coalition of groups opposed to Question 2. "Reading the fine print of Question 2, you see the devil really is in the details. We agree that Maine's education system has challenges that must be addressed, but a massive tax increase that will make Maine's top tax rate one of the highest in the country, does not provide funds that directly serve to raise student achievement, and whose funds do not reach our neediest communities and kids, is bad policy that we are hopeful will be rejected by Maine voters on November 8."

In its October 15 editorial urging Maine voters to reject Question 2, the Bangor Daily News editorial board concluded that while, "Maine is in need of a serious discussion about the changes that are needed to actually turn around stagnant student achievement in Maine," Maine's current school funding formula does not "effectively target money to areas that would make a difference in student achievement." Also of concern to the board was that communities with higher low-income student populations, which are more in need of additional education funding, "would receive no additional state support." The board wrote about the tax increase that they "fear negative fallout from Maine again being labeled as among the most taxed states in the nation." The full editorial can be found at <http://bangordailynews.com/2016/10/15/opinion/editorials/with-question-2-maine-gets-higher-taxes-same-education-system-that-needs-improving/>.

MaineToday Media, whose editorial endorsing a 'no' vote on Question 2 was published in its papers on Sunday, October 30, wrote that "While there is no real dispute that most schools would benefit from more support from the state, there is a legitimate question about whether the current school funding formula is the best way to get the money to the places where it is most needed." MaineToday also questioned "The wisdom of relying on such a large income tax surcharge," adding that Question 2 "would give Maine the reputation of having the second-highest top tax rate in the country ..." The full editorial can be found at (<http://www.pressherald.com/2016/10/30/our-view-vote-no-on-question-2-make-augusta-fix-schools/>).

Question 2, which would raise taxes by \$157 million on Maine households and small businesses, would make Maine's top tax rate the second-highest in the nation, cost Maine jobs, and be detrimental to our state's economy. While proponents of Question 2 claim zip codes do not matter, many Maine communities would get very little or absolutely no benefit from its passage. In fact, more than one-third of Maine's towns would receive zero new education money from this new tax.

For more information on Question 2, please visit <http://votenoquestion2.com/>.

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