

As a
[Maine](#)

homeowner living on a fixed income, I am writing to urge our legislators to support the **\$8 million increase** to the County Jail Operations Fund currently being debated in Augusta. This is not just about corrections; it is about providing long-overdue property tax relief to people like me.

For years, the state has failed to meet its commitment to fund **20% of county jail costs**, leaving local property taxpayers to pick up the slack. Today, that state contribution has dwindled to roughly **14–15%**, while property taxes have surged by **27%** since 2019.

When the state mandates policies without providing the promised 20% funding, the bill lands directly on our doorsteps. In counties like Penobscot and Washington, this has led to double-digit tax hikes that threaten our ability to stay in our homes.

Furthermore, I support the emergency **\$13 million funding** for the [Maine Commission on Public Defense Services](#). A broken justice system—whether through underfunded jails or a lack of constitutionally required legal counsel—only creates more delays and higher costs that eventually trickle down to the local level.

The [Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force](#) has already recommended an immediate increase in state support for jails to alleviate this growing burden. It is time for the legislature to honor its promises and stop using local homeowners as a "rainy day fund" for state-mandated services.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Town, Maine]