

Dear Members of the York County Delegation:

On behalf of York County Government, I write to express our significant disappointment that the supplemental General Fund budget approved on April 2, 2026, by the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs did not include any supplemental funding for the County Jail Operations Fund. This funding was requested by the Maine Municipal Association, the Maine County Commissioners Association, and the Maine Sheriffs' Association, and was supported by both the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee and the recently convened Property Tax Committee.

Throughout the committee process, our associations strongly urged the inclusion of a supplemental appropriation of \$4 million for FY26 and \$8 million for FY27. These additional state funds are necessary to maintain the state's share of county jail operating costs at levels consistent with prior years. We also emphasized that this funding is essential to ensure that county jails are adequately resourced to meet their obligations within Maine's criminal justice system, and to safeguard the health, welfare, and safety of all individuals in custody.

Absent this funding, the burden will shift to local property taxpayers at a time when many communities can least afford it. This outcome is of serious concern to local government officials across the state.

As a direct result of the April 2 decision, York County is currently projected to lose approximately \$400,000 in state funding for the budget year beginning July 1, 2026.

Accordingly, we respectfully request the following:

1. Support for LD 2232 on the Special Appropriations Table;
2. Inclusion of any available surplus funds for FY26 and FY27 in support of this effort; and
3. If sufficient funds are not available to meet the minimum annual appropriation outlined in LD 2232, an amendment to the bill to delay the additional funding obligation until July 1, 2027, outside of the current biennium.

We reiterate that, based on the April 2, 2026 decision by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, York County faces a loss exceeding \$400,000 for the upcoming budget period beginning July 1, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

York County Government