

# action

# impact

# RESULTS

THIRD QUARTER 2011



Lance Dutson, MHPC's new chief executive officer, began leading the organization in August. Lance is a veteran of public policy and conservative values and in his first weeks on the job has already made an impact on Maine's policy landscape.

## LANCE DUTSON LEADS MHPC FORWARD

In August, Lance Dutson took the reins of The Maine Heritage Policy Center as the new chief executive officer. As a long-time advocate for conservative, free-market principles, Lance is particularly well-known in public policy circles as an innovator and an effective communicator. Prior to leading MHPC, Lance worked as a communications and new media consultant for a number of public officials, including U.S. Senators Kelly Ayotte and Susan Collins. Most recently, Lance served as the Communications Director for Maine Speaker of the House, Representative Bob Nutting. Lance has already made a major impact on the public policy debate as MHPC CEO, fighting for Welfare reform and protecting the integrity of our voting system.

Maine people know that more government isn't the way to achieve prosperity. The Maine Heritage Policy Center is leading the movement for free-market solutions that promote limited government, individual liberty and prosperity for Maine.

## MHPC FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY LUNCHEON 2011

Following a year of hard-fought policy battles and government reforms, more than 300 Mainers joined MHPC at our annual Freedom and Opportunity Luncheon. The sold-out event was a testament to MHPC's growing influence, with attendees including the Governor and his staff, a full slate of legislative leadership, business leaders, grassroots activists and taxpayers from around the state. The luncheon featured talks from the CEO of MHPC, Lance Dutson, as well as our keynote speaker Michelle Malkin, noted conservative columnist, political commentator, and New York Times best-selling author. MHPC presented the 2011 Freedom and Opportunity Award to Dan Billings, a longtime MHPC supporter and conservative advocate, and Chief Counsel to Governor LePage. The event encouraged and inspired us to work even harder in the coming year to make Maine more prosperous.



## SECRET SHOPPER VIDEO LEADS TO WELFARE REFORM

MHPC continues to drive the debate over welfare reform. In August, MHPC partnered with Americans for Prosperity-Maine to release a video from an undercover investigation of a Department of Health and Human Services office showing just how vulnerable Maine's welfare system is to fraud and abuse. In response to this evidence of welfare fraud, MHPC proposed several welfare reforms, including a "secret shoppers" type program and additional steps to stop fraud and abuse. Recently, Governor LePage proposed to more than double the number of fraud investigators from 11 to 32, and create a "secret shoppers" program to assess the performance of state offices and employees. MHPC will continue to advocate compassionate welfare reform that lifts people from government dependence and combats welfare fraud and abuse.



## PROTECTING AND EXPANDING YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

A priority piece of legislation for MHPC is LD 1465, which would strengthen Maine's Right to Know Law through provisions including timelines to comply with public records requests and the ability to request records in a desired form. The public hearing on the bill proved that transparency is not a liberal vs. conservative issue; it is an issue with defenders of government on one side and defenders of the public on the other. The bill was referred to Maine's Right to Know Advisory Committee for review, and for recommendations to the full Legislature. The fight for a more open and accountable government goes on, and we won't rest on this issue until your right to know is protected and expanded.



## by the NUMBERS

In 2011, MHPC had a key role in formulating and promoting key policy reforms that are helping to make Maine more prosperous:

- **7.95%** - new highest state income tax rate, down from 8.5%, thanks to Tax Reform.
- **\$1.7 Billion** - amount that Maine taxpayers will save thanks to Public Pension Reform.
- **400%** - increase from 4th quarter 2010 to 4th quarter 2011 in number of small group insurance plans that have decreased in cost thanks to Health Insurance Reform - LD 1333.
- **0** - Non-citizens that will be eligible for MaineCare thanks to Welfare Reform.
- **213,594** - visits to [MaineOpenGov.org](http://MaineOpenGov.org) to search how Government spends tax dollars.



## MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY AND MAINEOPENGOV.ORG

MaineOpenGov.org, the number one source for finding out how Maine tax dollars are being spent, just completed its third year of shining a light on government spending. More than 1,000,000 searches have been conducted on MaineOpenGov.org, with 1 out of every 5 Maine voters visiting the site. This past year, MaineOpenGov.org and MHPC shed a bright light on the Maine Turnpike Authority and their waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars. Today, The Maine Turnpike Authority has made wholesale reforms as a result of those efforts, and other agencies are taking notice. Through MaineOpenGov.org, MHPC will continue to show taxpayers how their tax dollars are spent, with a goal of rooting out and stopping fraud, waste and abuse in government.