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 OCTOBER 2014  
 THE MAINE HERITAGE POLICY CENTER

*We the people of Maine...*

THE  
 MAINE HERITAGE  
 POLICY CENTER  
*We the people of Maine...*

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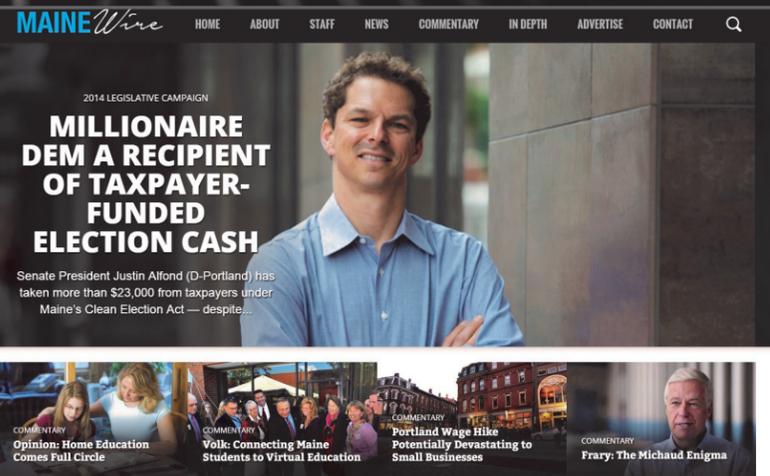
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*"I Believe That We Will Win"*

*Check out The Maine Wire's new look...*

**MAINE** *Wire*

**Dedicated to your right to know.**



THEMAINEWIRE.COM

**M**y name is Matthew Gagnon, and I am the new Chief Executive Officer of The Maine Heritage Policy Center.

For those who don't know me, I grew up in Hampden, graduated from the University of Maine, and was married in Brewer. Shortly after, though, I became something of a statistic: one of the avalanche of young people who left the state, in my case to Washington, D.C.

I've spent the last decade in our nation's capital, serving as a senior strategist on many of the highest profile political campaigns in the country. My expertise lies in grassroots organizing, activism, and leveraging technology and data in politics. I have been fortunate enough to be recognized for my work – most recently as one of the top ten communicators in politics – by nationally recognized publications.

But Maine is always where my heart belonged, and when this opportunity presented itself, I couldn't have been more enthusiastic about coming home. The Maine Heritage Policy Center is the single most important and effective advocate for freedom and opportunity in the state, and I'm thrilled to be here.

It turns out, my arrival comes at a rather critical time. With elections looming, Maine will be choosing between two paths for its future, and in either scenario, we are going to need a strong, influential conservative organization to push for common-sense solutions that benefit the people of Maine, and that is exactly what we are going to do.

Our organization has done an excellent job in the past. We've helped push through the largest tax cuts in Maine's history. We advocated hard for reforms to our pension system, saving \$1.7 billion for Maine taxpayers. We initiated the first ever free market health care reforms that are currently lowering costs and improving choice for consumers across the state. We

spearheaded the fight to finally allow charter schools to be established, providing greater choice for Maine students.

And, most recently, we stood up to the liberal special interests and helped defeat Medicaid expansion – making Maine the only state in New England to hold the line on expanding Obamacare.

We have ambitious goals for the next year. Our plans include organizing a true statewide, permanent network of citizens – for the first time in MHPC's history – who can help push for conservative change year round, in every corner of the state.

What does that change look like? We believe in wholesale regulatory reform. We believe in taking power from the hands of labor bosses and giving it back to where it belongs, to workers. We believe in pursuing policies that will lower energy costs for Mainers. We believe lowering taxes in a meaningful and dramatic way. We believe in reforming the welfare system to incentivize and encourage work. Moreover, we believe in fiscal discipline in Augusta.

These are the issues for which we will be fighting. We cannot do it alone, though. We need you. We need your time, energy, effort, and any financial support you can give to our organization, so we can continue to lead the way in the crucial battles we will face... No matter what things look like in Augusta next year.

Thank you for your participation and support of The Maine Heritage Policy Center. I look forward to working with you and being a part of this organization for years to come.

Sincerely,



**Matthew Gagnon**  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 The Maine Heritage Policy Center





Our new CEO

Matthew Gagnon  
mgagnon@mainepolicy.org

After conducting an exhaustive nationwide search, The Maine Heritage Policy Center, Maine's foremost free-market think tank, selected Matthew Gagnon as its new CEO.

Prior to joining MHPC, Mr. Gagnon served as the Director of Digital Strategy for the Republican Governors Association, where he was recognized as one of the top political strategists in the country.

He has also spent time on Capitol Hill as Director of New Media Communications for U.S. Senator Susan Collins. In 2010, Gagnon served as Deputy Director of Digital Strategy at the National Republican Senatorial Committee, helping to coordinate online campaigns for 37 U.S. Senate races across the country. Mr. Gagnon has also spent time in the private sector, most recently as a Senior Project Manager in the Public Affairs practice at Arlington based digital firm New Media Strategies.

A native of Hampden, Maine, Gagnon is a graduate of the University of Maine with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with an emphasis on American Government and Comparative Politics.

Matthew and his wife, Erin, reside in Yarmouth with their son, Alec.

# The Maine Wire.com

**MAINE** Wire  
Dedicated to your right to know.

The Maine Wire continued to provide hard-hitting exclusive reporting.

In September, we uncovered evidence of potentially illegal coordination between Maine's most notorious liberal advocacy groups. We also exposed liberals' bizarre attacks on conservatives -- from the allegation that a sitting state senator wants to poison children to the not-so-subtle suggestion that a state senate candidate opposes breast cancer screenings.



Howie Carr

Steve Robinson, editor of *The Maine Wire*, made several appearances on WGAN's *Morning News* and *The Howie Carr Show* to discuss various political scandals surrounding Maine's gubernatorial election.

Best of all, *The Maine Wire* has a brand new look! For nearly four years, *The Maine Wire* has been the premier destination for political news and conservative commentary about the Pine Tree State. Now, *The Maine Wire* is the best-looking news website in the state. The new website is easier to read and sharing our articles has never been easier.

Be sure to check us out at [TheMaineWire.com](http://TheMaineWire.com)!



Dedicated to your right to know.

Steve Robinson, Editor

serobinson@themainewire.com

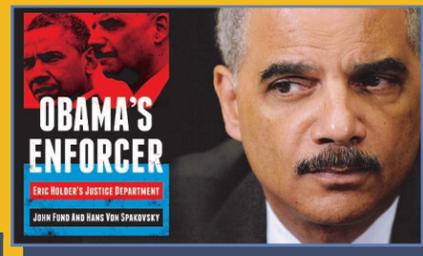
# Maine Prosperity Events

The Maine Heritage Policy Center hosted noted columnist and author John Fund on August 21, 2014 for discussion and book signing of his new book *Obama's Enforcer: Eric Holder's Justice Department*.

Attorney General Eric Holder's Department of Justice (DOJ) has become a politicized hotbed of left-wing legal activism. Mr. Fund presented an explosive look inside the powerful agency and described the transformation of the DOJ into a stronghold of liberal legal activism.

Fund argued that Holder and his agency act as a heat shield for the Obama administration, protecting the president's flank on numerous fronts. This includes the advancement of Obama's hidden political agenda and its harassment of conservative activists. He presided over an unprecedented expansion of politically correct actions at the DOJ's Civil Rights Division and launched a widespread attack on election integrity efforts.

Obama's Enforcer provides the first investigative look inside the country's largest law enforcement agency and reveals its true and dangerous role in advancing Obama's agenda.



On September 18, 2014, The Maine Heritage Policy Center presented *Reversing the Tide: Undoing Five Decades of Liberal Policies in Maine* with Matthew Gagnon.

Liberals in Maine have a true political machine, and conservatives don't. With an avalanche of money, volunteers, activists and ally groups to help them accomplish their agenda for five decades, they have dictated policy in Maine. Conservatives, on the other hand, have been unable to build the necessary infrastructure to compete.

Gagnon highlighted the unique challenges the Right faces in Maine, and how MHPC plans to turn the tables on the Left, to create something that will defeat five decades of destructive, regressive policy in the state.

**"What are we up against here in Maine? More than 160 progressive, liberal organizations with a combined \$400 million in annual operations!"**

For more information or to take action, visit [MainePolicy.org](http://MainePolicy.org).



Welcome Nathan!

Nathan Strout  
nstrout@mainepolicy.org

Nathan Strout is MHPC's new Research Associate.

Mr. Strout will also be assisting Steve Robinson as a staff reporter for *The Maine Wire*.

Prior to joining MHPC, Nathan served as a constituent services intern in the Portland office of U.S. Senator Susan Collins. He also interned with the Maine Republican Party, serving as a canvassing coordinator for southern Maine.

Born and raised in Portland, Nathan is enthusiastic about promoting free market reforms and individual liberty in his community.

Mr. Strout is a graduate of Eastern University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Legal Studies.

Recent newlyweds, Nathan and his wife, Louissa, reside in Portland, Maine.



# MHPC's 2014 Freedom & Opportunity Luncheon