

# LEPAGE – TEMPERAMENT AND ABORTION RECORD

*As Paul LePage attempts to turn the page on his past, voters throughout Maine, statewide, including independents, non-college-educated women, and college-educated men, need to see on TV that Paul LePage’s outrageous comments, threats, inability to work together, and unwillingness to listen to voices other than his own threatens vulnerable Mainers like children and seniors.*

*Voters throughout Maine, statewide, need to see on TV that Paul LePage is out of step with Mainers on abortion. He opposes a woman’s right to choose, has spoken at anti-choice rallies, and has refused to rule out signing restrictions on abortion access into law. If Paul LePage is elected Governor, Maine women could lose control of their reproductive health.*

## **TEMPERAMENT**

- LePage insulted his opponents and threatened a sitting lawmaker with an “expletive-laced” voicemail as governor.
- Meanwhile, LePage blocked progress on issues that matter to Mainers by shutting down the government for the first time in 25 years and setting an all-time veto record by vetoing hundreds of bipartisan bills.
  - LePage refused to work across the aisle or even with members of his own party, being criticized by the *Kennebec Journal* as someone who “can’t work with anyone whose interests are not already in line with his own.”
  - LePage ignored the law and the will of the voters, abusing his power and barring progress on issues like access to health care and affordable senior housing. He ultimately was ordered by courts repeatedly to follow the law.
- LePage recently threatened to “deck” a Democratic staffer at a campaign event, saying “if you come into my space, you’re going down.”

## **ABORTION**

- Paul LePage has described himself as “pro-life,” called for overturning *Roe v. Wade* if possible to do so, and has even said “we should not have abortion.”
- LePage spoke at multiple anti-choice rallies while governor.
- LePage has refused to rule out signing restrictions like 6- or 15-week bans on abortion if elected governor.

- Maine Republicans in the most recent legislative session introduced six anti-choice bills, and conservative anti-choice group Christian Civic League of Maine has already stated its intent to introduce anti-abortion legislation if Republicans won majorities in the legislature and the governorship.

## PAUL LEPAGE'S TEMPERMENT THREATENS VULNERABLE MAINERS

### LEPAGE MADE OUTLANDISH COMMENTS, THREATS AS GOVERNOR

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**Portland Press Herald Editorial: LePage “Steps On Toes, Insults Opponents.”** According to a *Portland Press Herald* editorial, “He steps on toes, insults opponents, impanels secret discussion groups and brashly pursues policy initiatives that, in some cases, are very likely opposed by a majority of Mainers. It could be arrogance. It could be inexperience. As mayor of Waterville before becoming governor, he had more or less free rein — and public approval — to impose his will on the city. Not so as governor. He needs to lead the entire state, not just the minority of voters who elected him. [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 3/13/11](#)]

**LePage Accused a State Senator of Being “the First One to Give it to the People Without Providing Vaseline.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Gov. Paul LePage made a crude sexual reference about a Democratic state senator in a television interview Thursday and said the lawmaker ‘has no brains’ and ‘a black heart.’ Referring to Assistant Senate Majority Leader Troy Jackson of Allagash, who gave his party’s response to the Republican governor’s latest budget proposal, LePage said: ‘Sen. Jackson claims to be for the people, but he’s the first one to give it to the people without providing Vaseline.’” [[Portland Press Herald, 6/20/13](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “LePage Draws Fire for Sexual Remark.”** [[Portland Press Herald, 6/20/13](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Maine Governor Offers Crude Metaphor Involving Vaseline.”** [[Washington Post, 6/20/13](#)]

**LePage Left an “Expletive-Laced” Voicemail for a State Representative, Challenged the Representative to a Duel.** According to *Maine Public*, “Gov. Paul LePage left a Democratic lawmaker a profanity-laced voicemail, daring him to come to Augusta and prove that the governor is a racist. The voicemail drew a swift response from Democratic leaders, who said in a statement that the message threatened violence and that the governor is not fit for office. The voicemail was first reported by the *Portland Press Herald*. The newspaper also reported comments LePage made during an interview at the Blaine House. In that interview the governor called Rep. Drew Gattine a ‘snot-nosed little guy from Westbrook’ and described a fantasy in which he and Gattine would have a duel.” [[Maine Public, 8/26/16](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “LePage Threatens Democratic Lawmaker, Leaves Obscene Voicemail.”** [[Maine Public, 8/26/16](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Maine Gov Leaves Expletive-Filled Voicemail for State Lawmaker.”** [[The Hill, 8/26/16](#)]

## LEPAGE BLOCKED PROGRESS AND SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT FOR FIRST TIME IN 25 YEARS

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### LEPAGE SHUT DOWN STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 25 YEARS

***Bangor Daily News: LePage “Forced a Shutdown” After Vetoing a Bipartisan Budget From Senate GOP And Democrats.*** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “LePage forced a shutdown after vetoing a budget from Senate Republicans and Democrats, and relying on House Republicans to block it and other proposals until they cut a deal ending the three-day shutdown.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/13/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News: LePage Left Office As “Presider Over A 2017 State Shutdown.”*** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Mills broke with LePage to look for consensus on key issues. Progressives are wondering if that's the right tactic. Bipartisan deals on big issues were few and far between during the hard-charging administration of LePage, Maine's all-time veto leader and presider over a 2017 state shutdown.” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/6/19](#)]

***Bangor Daily News: “Maine’s Government Shut Down For The First Time Since 1991 At 12:01 A.M. Saturday, As Republicans In The House Of Representatives Left To Chants Of ‘Shame’ After They Effectively Killed A Two-Year Budget Compromise Forged By Two Legislative Leaders.”*** According to the *Bangor Daily News* “Maine's government shut down for the first time since 1991 at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, as Republicans in the House of Representatives left to chants of ‘shame’ after they effectively killed a two-year budget compromise forged by two legislative leaders.” [[Bangor Daily News, 7/1/17](#)]

### LEPAGE USED HIS VETO POWER “FOR POLITICAL PUNISHMENT,” VETOED HUNDREDS OF BIPARTISAN BILLS

***Bangor Daily News: LePage Issued 643 Vetoes During Tenure As Governor; Maine Governors Had Previously Issued Total Of 469 Vetoes Combined.*** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “House Republicans upheld the 643rd -- and possibly final -- veto of LePage's eight years in office. Governors dating back to 1917 issued only 469 of vetoes in total. On Thursday, 46 Republicans backed LePage in nixing a bill to allocate \$334,000 to cover unforeseen costs of the 2018 election that were sprung on lawmakers by Secretary of State Matt Dunlap last month.” [[Bangor Daily News, 9/13/18](#)]

**Bangor Daily News: LePage Left Office As “Maine’s All-Time Veto Leader.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Mills broke with LePage to look for consensus on key issues. Progressives are wondering if that's the right tactic. Bipartisan deals on big issues were few and far between during the hard-charging administration of LePage, Maine's all-time veto leader and presider over a 2017 state shutdown.” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/6/19](#)]

**Sun Journal Editorial: LePage Uses Veto Pen “For Political Punishment” Rather Than Executive Power.** According to an editorial in the *Sun Journal*, “Gov. Paul LePage really, really likes his veto pen, a tool he has used to veto more legislation than any other governor in Maine recorded history. Traditionally speaking, the veto pen is seen as a source of executive power but Maine's current governor appears to be using that pen for political punishment.” [[Sun Journal, Editorial, 4/29/14](#)]

**2015: Bipartisan Groups of Legislators Overrode LePage’s Veto 120 Times.** According to *Governing.com*, “The conflict boils down to Republican Gov. Paul LePage wanting the legislature to move toward abolishing the state income tax. When that didn’t happen this session, he decided to veto practically every bill that reached his desk. In all, LePage has issued nearly 170 vetoes this year. That’s a big number, but what’s really striking is the fact that the legislature managed to override him about 70 percent of the time -- more than 120 overrides in all, including the state budget. This, despite the fact that his party controls the state Senate.” [[Governing.com, 8/21/15](#)]

**2017-2018: 106 of LePage’s Were Overridden, Which Required Republicans to Vote to Override.** *Given that the Maine Senate during the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2017-2018) was made up of 18 Republicans and 17 Democrats, and a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote is required to override a governor’s veto, any veto override required bipartisan support. LePage vetoed, and was then overridden, on 75 non-emergency bills, and 31 emergency bills for a total of 106 bipartisan bills.* [[Maine State Legislature, 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature](#)]

**Alan Caron Column: “Nearly All of LePage’s Vetoes Were Overturned” in Many Cases by Votes that Included “Every Republican in the Legislature.”** According to a column by Alan Caron in the *Morning Sentinel*, “Those limitations produced a shocking set of failures last year, as LePage’s tax plan went down in flames, deep divisions erupted between the governor and Republicans in the Legislature and, in the end, nearly all of LePage’s vetoes were overturned, in many cases by votes that included every Republican in the Legislature. Much of that – and particularly the unanimous veto overrides – was unprecedented for a sitting governor of a major political party in Maine. By the end of the legislative session, LePage had managed to move from the heights of his power to what seemed like a tragic figure in a dusty bunker, barking orders to phantom armies.” [[Morning Sentinel, Alan Caron Column, 9/17/15](#)]

**LePage’s “Strong-Arm” Tactics Often “Backfired” And Pushed GOP To Side With Democrats To Override LePage’s Vetoes.** According to the *Associated Press*, “LePage's strong-arm tactics have often backfired, observers say, pushing Republicans to join Democrats more often than not to override the more than 100 vetoes he has issued so far this session. ‘It's just striking how quickly he squandered any political capital he gained from his re-election,’ said Phil Bartlett, chairman of the Maine Democratic Party.” [[Associated Press, 6/27/15](#)]

## LEPAGE REFUSED TO WORK ACROSS THE AISLE OR EVEN WITH MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY

***Bangor Daily News*: “Bipartisan Deals On Big Issues Were Few And Far Between During The Hard-Charging Administration Of LePage.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Mills broke with LePage to look for consensus on key issues. Progressives are wondering if that's the right tactic. Bipartisan deals on big issues were few and far between during the hard-charging administration of LePage, Maine's all-time veto leader and presider over a 2017 state shutdown.” [[Bangor Daily News, 6/6/19](#)]

***Kennebec Journal* Editorial: LePage “Won’t be Able to Talk About the Times He Got Everyone to Work Together for the Common Good, Because There Aren’t Any.”** According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “The chief executive will likely toot his own horn during the speech, taking credit for Maine's low unemployment rate and other benefits of the long national recovery that happened to coincide with his term in office. But he won't be able to talk about the times he got everyone to work together for the common good, because there aren't any.” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 2/11/18](#)]

- ***Kennebec Journal* Editorial: “The Governor Can Disrupt and Delay, But He Doesn’t Have the Skills to Make Things Happen.”** According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “The governor can disrupt and delay, but he doesn't have the skills to make things happen.” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 2/11/18](#)]

***Kennebec Journal* Editorial: LePage “Can Call People Names...But He Can’t Work With Anyone Whose Interests Are Not Already in Line With His Own. The Slightest Conflict Turns to Stalemate. Either the Governor Steamrolls His Opponents or Nothing Happens.”** According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “He can make pronouncements, he can call people names, he can order buses in the middle of the night. But he can’t work with anyone whose interests are not already in line with his own. The slightest conflict turns to stalemate. Either the governor steamrolls his opponents or nothing happens.” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 2/11/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News*: State “Lawmakers, Party Affiliation Aside, Are Breathing A Sigh Of Relief To Have Gov. Paul LePage ‘In The Rearview Mirror.’”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “House Speaker Sara Gideon, who on Wednesday earned a second term as leader of the Legislature's lower chamber, said that she and other lawmakers, party affiliation aside, are breathing a sigh of relief to have Gov. Paul LePage ‘in the rearview mirror.’” [[Bangor Daily News, 12/10/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: LePage Has “Bullied and Insulted Those Who Disagree With Him. As a Result, Much of LePage’s Agenda Has Withered on the Sidelines.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “LePage has had seven years to work with lawmakers, to persuade them that his priorities -- and his plans to meet them -- are the right ones for Maine. Instead, he has bullied and insulted those who disagree with him. As a result, much of LePage's agenda has withered on the sidelines.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 2/14/18](#)]

## LEPAGE IGNORED THE LAW AS GOVERNOR AND HAD TO BE REPEATEDLY ORDERED TO FOLLOW IT BY THE COURTS

*LePage Repeatedly Abused His Power as Governor, Ignoring the Law and the Will of Maine Voters*

**LePage “is Refusing to Authorize Funding for a \$15 Million Senior Housing Bond Approved by Maine Voters Last Fall...Told an Audience at a Town-Meeting-Style Event in Orono That No One Should Expect to See Him Act on the Voters’ Wishes Anytime Soon.”**

According to Maine Public, “Maine Gov. Paul LePage is refusing to authorize funding for a \$15 million senior housing bond approved by Maine voters last fall. [...] LePage has never liked the senior housing bond. He campaigned against the ballot measure last fall, but it went on to garner nearly 70 percent of the vote. And despite that overwhelming measure of support, LePage told an audience at a town-meeting-style event in Orono that no one should expect to see him act on the voters’ wishes anytime soon.” [[Maine Public, 4/7/16](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “LePage Won’t Issue \$15 Million Voter-Approved Senior Housing Bonds.”** [[Maine Public, 4/7/16](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial HEADLINE: “When a Law Has No Meaning, the Governor Must be LePage.”** [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 8/3/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: LePage Abused His Power by Holding Up the Sale of Voter-Approved Bonds, Vetoing Bills After the Deadline Had Passed, Blocked Medicaid Expansion, and Held Up Financial Orders to Transfer Funding to Political Candidates.**

According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “During his administration, LePage has held up the sale of voter-approved bonds. He's attempted to veto bills after the deadline for vetoing them has passed. More recently, he's stood in the way of the Medicaid expansion voters approved but which he's consistently opposed. And he's held up financial orders that would transfer money lawmakers have already budgeted to political candidates relying on the state's public campaign financing system, a move that is a violation of the law, a judge ruled Thursday.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 8/3/18](#)]

***Bangor Daily News* Editorial: “It’s a Sad State of Affairs When so Little Trust in the Basic Workings of Government is Warranted, But Such is the State of Maine Government Under LePage.”** According to an editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*, “It's a sad state of affairs when so little trust in the basic workings of government is warranted, but such is the state of Maine government under LePage. Among the most pressing priorities for Maine's next governor will be to restore the public's confidence that a law on the books actually means something.” [[Bangor Daily News, Editorial, 8/3/18](#)]

***Portland Press Herald* Editorial: “It’s Clear That After Seven Years, LePage Still Doesn’t Understand His Job. He is the Governor, Not the King, and His Power is Limited.”**

According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “It's clear that after seven years, LePage still doesn't understand his job. He is the governor, not the king, and his power is limited.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 7/15/18](#)]

**Portland Press Herald Editorial: “The Governor Should Not Get to Decide Which Laws He Feels Like Enforcing.”** According to an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald*, “The governor should not get to decide which laws he feels like enforcing. The judges should treat his position with the same regard he has for them.” [[Portland Press Herald, Editorial, 7/15/18](#)]

**Kennebec Journal Editorial: LePage “[Is] Not Big on Checks and Balances. Whether it’s a Voter-Approved Bond He Won’t Issue, a Life-Saving Medicine He Won’t Distribute or a Renewable Energy Project He Can Disrupt, the Governor Knows How to Say ‘No.’”** According to an editorial in the *Kennebec Journal*, “He’s not big on checks and balances. Whether it’s a voter-approved bond he won’t issue, a life-saving medicine he won’t distribute or a renewable energy project he can disrupt, the governor knows how to say ‘no.’” [[Kennebec Journal, Editorial, 2/11/18](#)]

[LePage Was Repeatedly Forced to Follow the Law by Courts](#)

**2018: A Court Ordered the LePage Administration to Release Federal Job Training Funds.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Judge John Woodcock denied that request in January and ordered the administration to release the federal funds. On Thursday, LePage and Butera agreed to drop their appeal of that lawsuit to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, according to court records.” [[Bangor Daily News, 3/2/18](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “After Losing in Court, LePage Agrees to Release Millions in Job Training Funds.”** [[Bangor Daily News, 3/2/18](#)]

**June 2018: Maine Superior Court Ordered LePage to Implement Medicaid Expansion in Maine.** According to Politico, “Gov. Paul LePage’s administration must file paperwork by next week to the federal government to adopt Obamacare’s Medicaid expansion in Maine, a state Superior Court judge said Monday in a decision rebuking the defiant Republican governor.” [[Politico, 6/4/18](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Court Orders Maine Governor to Expand Medicaid.”** [[Politico, 6/4/18](#)]

**Nov. 2018: the Maine Superior Court Ordered LePage’s Administration to Implement Voter-Approved Medicaid Expansion.** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “A judge ordered Gov. Paul LePage’s administration on Wednesday to implement voter-approved Medicaid expansion, which could be one of the final steps in a monthslong court battle over whether the state must provide 70,000 Mainers with health coverage. The 21-page ruling from Superior Court Justice Michaela Murphy found that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services has ‘failed and refused to comply’ with the law passed by Maine voters in 2017 that would expand Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act.” [[Bangor Daily News, 11/21/18](#)]

## LEPAGE HASN'T CHANGED – RECENTLY THREATENED TO “DECK” A DEMOCRATIC STAFFER

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**HEADLINE:** “Maine’s Trumpy Guv Candidate Threatens to ‘Deck’ Dem Staffer.” [[Daily Beast, 8/18/22](#)]

**August 2022: LePage “Threatened to ‘Deck’ a Maine Democratic Party Staffer Who Was Filming Him,” Saying “If You Come into My Space, You’re Going Down.”** According to the *Daily Beast*, “At a Sunday campaign stop, LePage threatened to ‘deck’ a Maine Democratic Party staffer who was filming him, according to video obtained exclusively by The Daily Beast. As the staffer approached LePage in a small crowd, the 73-year-old Republican reacted with an immediate threat. ‘Six feet away, or I’m going to deck you,’ said LePage, pointing at the staffer, his other hand clutching a donut from Tim Horton’s. ‘If you come into my space, you’re going down.’” [[Daily Beast, 8/18/22](#)]

**LePage Claimed He’s “Left Behind the Days” Where He Made Headlines for Threatening Violence, But “Turns Out...Old Habits Die Hard.”** According to the *Daily Beast*, “As he seeks a third term as Maine governor, Paul LePage had reportedly left behind the days when he earned national headlines by threatening to blow up a newspaper office, challenging a Democrat to a duel, or telling the NAACP to ‘kiss my butt.’ But it turns out that, for the man once dubbed ‘America’s craziest governor,’ old habits die hard.” [[Daily Beast, 8/18/22](#)]

**Daily Beast: LePage Had Reportedly “Mellowed Out” and Become “LePage 2.0,” But “LePage’s Threatening of the Democratic Party Staffer...is Far More in Line With the Behavior of LePage 1.0.”** According to the *Daily Beast*, “According to NBC News, LePage has reportedly ‘mellowed out’ and has branded himself privately as ‘LePage 2.0.’ [...] LePage’s threatening of the Democratic Party staffer—at a campaign stop in the northern Maine town of Madawaska on Sunday—is far more in line with the behavior of LePage 1.0.” [[Daily Beast, 8/18/22](#)]

## PAUL LEPAGE’S ABORTION RECORD

### PAUL LEPAGE IS ANTI-CHOICE

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**LePage: “We Should Not Have Abortion.”** According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “Gov. Paul LePage said he has made it a point to attend the Maine Right to Life’s Hands Around the Capitol rally every year because of children. ‘They are the future and we have to have more children and a better future for our society,’ LePage said. ‘Right now, more people are dying than being born, so it’s time to have an opportunity to keep them alive. We should not have abortion.’” [[Kennebec Journal, 1/16/16](#)]

**AUDIO: LePage: “I Do Think My Personal Position Is Very Clear: I Am for Life.”** LEPAGE: [0:48] “I don’t think a governor should take a position on a social issue, and I

don't. I do think my personal position is very clear: I am for life. I don't like late term abortions.” [[Maine Public Radio, 6/28/22](#)] (AUDIO)

- **LePage “Has Said He Opposes Abortion.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “Former Gov. Paul LePage, a Republican who has said he opposes abortion, said he would not try to overturn or restrict the right to abortion in Maine, but refused to promise that he wouldn't sign an anti-abortion bill if he becomes governor again.” [[Portland Press Herald, 6/28/22](#)]
- **LePage “Emphasizes His Support of Abortion Restrictions.”** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “After a report suggests the Supreme Court will overturn Roe v. Wade, Gov. Janet Mills says she will fight to protect reproductive rights while former Gov. Paul LePage emphasizes his support of abortion restrictions.” [[Portland Press Herald, 5/3/22](#)]
- **LePage “Has Been a Vocal Opponent of Abortion.”** According to Maine Public, “LePage made no new statements last Friday after the nation's highest court overturned the nearly 50-year-old Roe v. Wade opinion, instead referring to a roughly month-old statement in which he referred to a ‘proven history of supporting life’ and expressing opposition to taxpayer funding of abortion. The former two-term governor has been a vocal opponent of abortion and often participated in an annual anti-abortion rally at the State House.” [[Maine Public, 6/28/22](#)]

### **LePage on Roe v. Wade and Potential Supreme Court Nominees’ Positions on the Ruling: “It’s the Law of the Land. If They Can Make a Case for Getting Rid of it, Let’s do it.”**

According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Gov. Paul LePage said Thursday that he doesn't believe a nominee's position on Roe v. Wade should be a factor for senators voting for Supreme Court nominees, contradicting a statement from Republican U.S. Sen. Susan Collins indicating that's what she intends to do. The Republican governor said during a radio interview that the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that decriminalized abortion ‘should not be an issue’ that decides whether a nominee to the bench is successful. ‘It's the law of the land,’ LePage said. ‘If they can make a case for getting rid of it, let's do it.’” [[Bangor Daily News, 7/8/18](#)]

## **PAUL LEPAGE REPEATEDLY ATTENDED AND SPOKE AT ANTI-CHOICE RALLIES AS GOVERNOR**

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**In 2016, LePage Said He’d “Made it a Point to Attend the Maine Right to Life’s Hands Around the Capitol Rally Every Year.”** According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “Gov. Paul LePage said he has made it a point to attend the Maine Right to Life’s Hands Around the Capitol rally every year because of children.” [[Kennebec Journal, 1/16/16](#)]

- **The Maine Right to Life Event Was Designed to “Publicly Recognize and Mourn” the Roe v. Wade Decision.** According to the *Kennebec Journal*, “LePage, who received two standing ovations, was among a handful of speakers Saturday afternoon to a crowd gathered at St. Michael School gymnasium in Augusta to ‘publicly recognize and mourn’

the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision of Jan. 22, 1973, which legalized abortions in the U.S." [[Kennebec Journal, 1/16/16](#)]

**2014: LePage Attended and Spoke at Maine Right to Life's Annual Anti-Abortion Rally.**

According to the *Kennebec Journal*, "Gov. Paul LePage and other political and anti-abortion leaders spoke at a rally held at St. Michael Catholic Parish gymnasium before the march to the Capitol building. The annual Hands Around the Capitol memorial, hosted by Maine Right to Life Committee, began with a prayer service at RiverRock Christian Fellowship in Chelsea and a Mass at St. Mary's Church in Augusta." [[Kennebec Journal, 1/18/14](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "LePage Tells Abortion Opponents at Augusta Rally They're Making Headway."** [[Kennebec Journal, 1/18/14](#)]

**2012: LePage Attended and Spoke at Maine Right to Life's Annual Anti-Abortion Rally.**

According to the *Fosters Daily Democrat*, "Anti-abortion activists gathered Saturday at Maine's State House for the annual 'Hands Around the Capitol' rally and march to recognize and mourn the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion 39 years ago. [...] Prominent anti-abortion leaders and a state legislator spoke at the rally, as did Gov. Paul LePage, who spoke briefly about friends and family and the importance of taking care of one another." [[Fosters Daily Democrat, 1/15/12](#)]

**2011 HEADLINE: "LePage Attends Anti-Abortion Rally in Augusta."** [[Associated Press, 1/15/11](#)]

**LePage "Spoke to Anti-Choice Rallies Multiple Times."** According to a column by Amy Fried in the *Bangor Daily News*, "As governor, LePage spoke to anti-choice rallies multiple times." [[Amy Fried Column, Bangor Daily News, 5/10/22](#)]

## **PAUL LEPAGE HAS REFUSED TO RULE OUT SIGNING ABORTION RESTRICTIONS INTO LAW AS GOVERNOR**

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**HEADLINE: "Paul LePage Doesn't Rule Out Signing Abortion Restrictions into Law."** [[Bangor Daily News, 7/1/22](#)]

**LePage "Refused to Promise That He Wouldn't Sign an Anti-Abortion Bill if He Becomes Governor Again."** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, "Former Gov. Paul LePage, a Republican who has said he opposes abortion, said he would not try to overturn or restrict the right to abortion in Maine, but refused to promise that he wouldn't sign an anti-abortion bill if he becomes governor again." [[Portland Press Herald, 6/28/22](#)]

**Asked Whether He Would Sign a 15-Week Abortion Ban, LePage "Dismissed the Question as a Hypothetical."** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, "Asked at a Friday event at the Holden Police Department whether LePage would consider signing a 15-week abortion ban similar to the one in Mississippi at the center of the recent Supreme Court case, the former governor dismissed the question as a hypothetical." [[Bangor Daily News, 7/1/22](#)]

- **LePage Said “I Don’t Know” When Asked if He Would Support Bans on Abortion After Six Weeks of Pregnancy or After 15 Weeks of Pregnancy.** According to WMTW, “LePage was asked if he’d support any ban on abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, now in effect in Texas, or after 15 weeks, as currently in effect in Mississippi, the law the Supreme Court upheld. LePage said, ‘I don’t know. I would have to look at the science. I will tell you this. I am absolutely certain that I don’t like late-term abortions or killing a viable baby just before birth.’” [[WMTW, 6/30/22](#)]
- **LePage “Might Support Restricting Abortion Earlier” if the Science Supported Doing So.** According to the *Portland Press Herald*, “He might support restricting abortion earlier if medical science changes the definition of viability. ‘I mean, I’m pro-life, and if that baby could live, if medical science could keep that baby alive and someone could prove that to me, I’d have to consider it,’ LePage said. ‘But we’re not there yet, are we? Science isn’t there yet. I’m only going to have time for problems I can actually fix.’” [[Portland Press Herald, 6/28/22](#)]

**American Journal: “LePage Refused to Promise that He Wouldn’t Sign an Anti-Abortion Bill if He Returns to the Blaine House.”** According to the *American Journal*, “Her opponent in November, former Gov. Paul LePage, a Republican who has said he opposes abortion, also said last month that he would not try to overturn or restrict the right to abortion in Maine, according to the Portland Press Herald. However, LePage refused to promise that he wouldn’t sign an anti-abortion bill if he returns to the Blaine House.” [[American Journal, 7/12/22](#)]

**Asked Whether Voters Could Be Sure LePage Would “Not Touch Abortion Protections” if He’s Governor, LePage Said He “Didn’t Say That.”** According to the *Bangor Daily News*, “Asked whether voters could be assured that LePage would not touch abortion protections in Maine if he wins in November, the former Republican governor said he ‘didn’t say that.’” [[Bangor Daily News, 7/1/22](#)]

**Asked if He Would Support “Rolling Back the Timeline” for Legal Abortions in Maine, LePage Said “I Don’t Know.”** According to WMTW, “LePage was asked if he would support rolling back the timeline for legal abortion in Maine? ‘I don’t know,’ he said. ‘I don’t have an opinion.’” [[WMTW, 6/30/22](#)]

## **ABORTION OPPONENTS IN MAINE HAVE RECENTLY INITIATED A HALF DOZEN ANTI-ABORTION BILLS, PLEDGED TO PASS ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS**

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**Maine Republican Legislators Introduced Six Anti-Abortion Bills in the Recent Legislature Session, Including Repealing MaineCare Funding for Abortion, Requiring Providers to Provide Women With Information About Abortion Alternatives, and Requiring Fetal Remains to be Buried.** According to WMTW, “Maine Republican legislators initiated a half dozen anti-abortion bills in the 2021-22 session, including a repeal MaineCare funding of abortion, a mandate for providers to share information with women about alternatives to

abortion, and requiring burial of fetal remains resulting from abortion or miscarriage.” [[WMTW, 6/27/22](#)]

**The Anti-Abortion Christian Civic League of Maine Indicated “There are Things” Like Restricting Access to Medication Abortions “That Would be on the Table Immediately” in the Wake of Roe Being Overturned, Should Republicans Win Majorities in the Legislature and the Governorship.** According to WMTW, “The Christian Civic League, which opposes abortion rights, said in a statement this week: ‘Even though the overturning of Roe v. Wade (as indicated in the leaked draft) would not immediately affect the rights of the unborn in Maine, it will create a platform to begin a conversation over whether those rights ought to be protected.’ ‘I think there are things that would be on the table immediately,’ Mike McClellan, the group’s policy director, said, referring to potential action opponents of abortion rights could take if they were to capture a majority of the state legislature and with the governorship. First priorities, McClellan speculated, might include eliminating taxpayer-funded abortions in Maine and restricting medication-abortions through telehealth. ‘Even many people that support abortion don’t believe that taxpayers should have to pay for it,’ McClellan said.” [[WMTW, 5/4/22](#)]

## FOOTAGE

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**LEPAGE FOOTAGE:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjfFkcdUAbc&feature=youtu.be>