

## Dale Crafts (ME-02) Research Report

The following report contains research on Dale Crafts, a Republican candidate in Maine's 2nd district. Research for this research memo was conducted by the DCCC's Research Department between in July 2020. By accepting this report, you are accepting responsibility for all information and analysis included. Therefore, it is your responsibility to verify all claims against the original documentation before you make use of it. Make sure you understand the facts behind our conclusions before making any specific charges against anyone.



# Dale Crafts

---

Republican Candidate in  
Maine's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

## Research Memo – 2020

Last Updated July 2020

Prepared by the DCCC Research Department



## Table of Contents

Health Care Issues .....	2
Labor and Working Family Issues .....	12
Tax & Budgetary Issues.....	20
Seniors' Issues .....	24
Early Life.....	28
Campaign 2020.....	29
Donald Trump.....	33
Abortion and Family Planning Issues .....	36
Budget Issues.....	39
Campaign Finance and Election Law Issues .....	44
Crime and Public Safety Issues.....	45
Economy and Jobs Issues.....	46
Education Issues .....	47
Energy Issues.....	53
Environmental Issues.....	54
Foreign Policy Issues.....	56
Gun Issues .....	57
Immigration and Border Issues .....	61
LGBT Issues .....	63
Military Personnel Issues.....	64
Religious Issues .....	65
Terrorism and Homeland Security .....	66
Trade Issues .....	67
Veterans' Issues.....	68

## Health Care Issues

### Significant Findings

- ✓ *Crafts supported repealing the Affordable Care Act, gutting protections for pre-existing conditions and costing 83,000 Mainers their health insurance.*
- ✓ *Crafts opposed Medicaid expansion in Maine, denying coverage to 60,000 Mainers.*
- ✓ *Crafts opposed funding a state-run program that expanded Medicaid in Maine.*
- ✓ *Crafts supported exempting church-based organizations from state insurance regulations, even though critics claimed it could leave participants with gaps in coverage.*
- ✓ *Crafts was one of only 5 votes against a bill that would provide tax credits for adult day care and respite and hospice care.*
- ✓ *Crafts supported a lawsuit against Maine Governor Mills attempting to loosen economic restrictions put into place to curb the spread of COVID-19, and attended a rally to reopen the economy.*
- ✓ *Crafts said regulations were “making the pandemic worse.”*
- ✓ *Crafts supported a two-year cap on methadone treatment, even though critics claimed the cap failed to recognize that addiction required long-term treatment.*
- ✓ *Crafts opposed abortion in all cases, with no exceptions for rape or incest. Crafts supported defunding Planned Parenthood, which provided care including cancer screenings to nearly 10,000 Mainers each year.*

## Health Insurance

### **Crafts Supported Repealing The Affordable Care Act, Which Would Gut Protections For Pre-Existing Conditions And Cost 83,000 Mainers Their Health**

**Crafts Supported Repealing The Affordable Care Act.** Crafts answered “Yes” to the question “Do you support repealing the 2010 Affordable Care Act (‘Obamacare’)?” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

**PolitiFact: Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Repeal Protections For Pre-Existing Conditions.** “To understand Pureval’s health care claim, we need to start with the basics of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, signed by President Barack Obama. It required most Americans to have health insurance, and health insurers had to cover any patient who applied and paid premiums. Some of those premiums were covered by taxpayer subsidies. The act, known in shorthand as both the ACA and Obamacare, prohibited charging premiums based on an applicant’s health status or prior medical conditions. It allowed insurers to charge higher premiums for their oldest members, but no more than three times as high as premiums charged for the youngest members. Republicans including Chabot disliked the ACA from the start. It was economically unsustainable, they said, and while Obama claimed premiums would go down, they went up for a number of families, and some were forced to buy coverage they didn’t want. Furthermore, congressional critics said, it was an assault on the ideals of free markets and individual choice. So they tried to repeal it. They voted multiple times, generally garnering enough votes for passage in the House, which Republicans retook in the late 2010 election, but failing in the Senate. Chabot

voted with the majority. Therefore, Pureval says, Chabot voted to strip protections from people with pre-existing conditions. [...] The Truth-O-Meter can only measure what a politician says and what he or she did. The connection between the ACA and pre-existing conditions was eminently clear throughout the repeal debate.” [PolitiFact, [9/12/18](#)]

### **Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Cause 83,000 Mainers To Lose Their Health Insurance.**

According to an analysis by the Urban Institute, repealing the Affordable Care Act would result in 83,000 additional uninsured Mainers. [Urban Institute, [March 2019](#)]

## **Crafts Did Not Believe The Government Was Responsible For Ensuring Health Care Access**

**Crafts Did Not Believe The Government Was Responsible For Ensuring Health Care Access.** Crafts chose “Strongly Disagree” in response to the statement that “It is the government’s responsibility to ensure everyone has health insurance.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Crafts Did Not Support The Elimination Of Private Health Insurance In Favor Of Publicly Provided Care**

**Crafts Did Not Support The Elimination Of Private Health Insurance In Favor Of Publicly Provided Care.** Crafts chose “Strongly Disagree” in response to the statement that “I support the elimination of private healthcare insurance.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Crafts Advocated For A Free Market Health Care System, Saying He Was “Not A Person That Is For Government Health Care”**

**Crafts Advocated For A Free Market Health Care System, Saying He Was “Not A Person That Is For Government Health Care.”** “Well the best way you can do that [expand health care access] is to grow the economy and have business be successful and offer health insurance to the employees. So a strong economy, a free market system, will help that to happen. [...] I’m not a person that is for government healthcare.” [Maine Public Radio, 6/24/20]

**Crafts Advocated For Free Market Healthcare.** “American deserve access to affordable, quality healthcare. As a Congressman, I will fight for lower costs, increased access, and higher quality care. Doctors, not Washington bureaucrats, should make decisions about your health. Free market based healthcare options will help families choose their best health care needs at an affordable price.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Crafts Opposed Medicaid Expansion In Maine, Denying Coverage To 60,000 Mainers**

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Expand MaineCare And Qualify Maine For Additional Federal Health Care Funding**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Expand MaineCare And Qualify Maine For Additional Federal Health Care Funding.** Crafts voted against LD 1066, “An Act To Increase Access To Health Coverage And Qualify Maine for Federal Funding.” “This bill expands medical coverage under the MaineCare program to adults who 3 qualify under federal law with incomes up to 133% of the nonfarm income official 4 poverty line, with the 5% federal income adjustment for family size, and qualifies Maine 5 to receive federal funding for 100% of the cost of coverage for members who enroll 6 under the expansion. Adults who will be eligible are those 21 to 64 years of age 7 beginning January 1, 2014 and adults 19 and 20 years of age beginning October 1, 2019.” [Maine Legislature, LD1066, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Crafts Opposed Medicaid Expansion In Maine**

**Crafts Opposed Medicaid Expansion In Maine.** “Former state Rep. Dale Crafts on Thursday became the third Republican to file for the race in Maine's swing 2nd Congressional District, setting up an uncertain 2020 primary for the right to challenge Democratic U.S. Rep. Jared Golden. [...] Crafts, who has used a wheelchair since he was paralyzed from the waist down in a 1983 motorcycle crash, opposed Medicaid expansion, played up some of his similarities to President Donald Trump during his speech.” [Bangor Daily News, 10/10/19]

**Medicaid Expansion Would Have Covered 60,000 Uninsured Mainers.** “A bill to expand Medicaid to cover more than 60,000 uninsured Mainers was dealt another blow Tuesday as the House voted to pass it 97-49, a single vote less than the two-thirds majority needed to override a certain veto by Gov. Paul LePage. Last week in the Senate, the bill fell two votes short of a veto-proof margin. The measure would expand MaineCare, the state's Medicaid program, to people who earn as much as 138 percent of the federal poverty level, just over \$15,856 a year for an individual. It also would establish a managed-care system for the entire MaineCare program.” [Portland Press Herald, 3/19/14]

---

### **Crafts Called Maine's Medicaid Expansion Bill A “Medical Welfare Program” That Cost The State \$200,000 Per Day**

---

**Crafts Claimed The Democratic Medicaid Expansion Proposal Would Expand The Program To Tens Of Thousands Of Young Individuals At A Cost Of Over \$200,000 Per Day To Working Mainers.** “This year's assault on welfare reform by liberal politicians culminated in a proposal -- LD 1066 -- to expand Maine's medical welfare program to tens of thousands of young, able-bodied individuals at a bank-breaking cost of over \$200,000 per day to working Mainers.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

**LD 1066 Called On The State To Pursue Medicaid Expansion.** “After Wednesday's veto vote, the Senate Democrats issued a statement saying that the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee is likely to vote Thursday on LD 1066, a bill that specifically calls for the state to pursue Medicaid expansion. The committee tabled that bill after voting along party lines to link Medicaid expansion to LD 1456.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/29/13]

**Crafts Op-Ed: “Medicaid Has Doubled As A Share Of Maine's Budget.”** “This state ranks third for the percentage of households on TANF cash welfare, second for food stamps, second for food stamp error rate, and third for Medicaid enrollment. Medicaid has doubled as a share of Maine's budget during the past 15 years and the Department of Health and Human Services now consumes almost half the budget. Overall, 30.5 percent of the budget is spent on welfare.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

### **MaineCare And Maine Health Insurance Laws**

---

---

#### **Crafts Was The Sole Opposition Vote Against A Bill That Would Increase Payments To MaineCare Providers That Are Subject To Maine's Service Provider Tax**

---

**Crafts Was The Sole Opposition Vote Against A Bill That Would Increase Payments To MaineCare Providers That Are Subject To Maine's Service Provider Tax.** Crafts was the sole “Nay” vote against LD 1638, “An Act To Increase Payments to MaineCare Providers That Are Subject to Maine's Service Provider Tax.” “This bill provides for an increase in reimbursement rates to eligible MaineCare providers who are subject to the service provider tax.” [Maine Legislature, LD1638, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

#### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Expand MaineCare For Low-Income Families**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Expand MaineCare For Low-Income Families.** Crafts voted against LD 854, “An Act To Increase Access to Health Security by Expanding Federally Funded Health Care for Maine People.” “This bill expands medical coverage under the MaineCare program to adults who qualify under federal law with incomes up to 133% of the nonfarm income official poverty line, with the 5% federal income adjustment for family size, and qualifies Maine to receive federal funding for 100% of the cost of coverage for members who

enroll under the expansion. Adults who will be eligible are those 21 to 64 years of age beginning January 1, 2016 and adults 19 and 20 years of age beginning October 1, 2019.” [Maine Legislature, LD854, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Affordable Coverage Options To Low-Income Uninsured People**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Affordable Coverage Options To Low-Income Uninsured People.** Crafts voted against LD 633, “An Act To Improve the Health of Maine Citizens and the Economy of Maine by Providing Affordable Market-based Coverage Options to Low-income Uninsured Citizens.” “This bill proposes to establish an affordable market-based program to provide health insurance coverage to low-income uninsured Maine citizens who earn less than 133% of the federal poverty level. The program would be modeled after the Insure Tennessee program and the SHARE Plan program in Wyoming.” [Maine Legislature, LD633, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Expand Medicaid Coverage For Reproductive Health Care And Family Planning For Low-Income People**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Expand Medicaid Coverage For Reproductive Health Care And Family Planning For Low-Income People.** Crafts voted against LD 319, “An Act To Strengthen The Economic Stability of Qualified Maine Citizens by Expanding Coverage of Reproductive Health Care and Family Services.” “This bill expands Medicaid coverage for reproductive health care and family planning services to adults and adolescents who have individual incomes less than or equal to 209% of the nonfarm income official poverty line as defined in accordance with federal law, which is the same Medicaid coverage level as for pregnant women.” [Maine Legislature, LD 319, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Restore Consumer Rate Review For Health Insurance Plans In The Individual Market**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Restore Consumer Rate Review For Health Insurance Plans In The Individual Market.** Crafts voted largely along party lines against LD 243, “An Act To Restore Consumer Rate Review for Health Insurance Plans in the Individual Market.” “This bill amends the rate review process for individual health insurance. It requires advance review and prior approval of individual health insurance rates. It requires the Superintendent of Insurance to hold a hearing if a filing proposes an increase in rates in individual health insurance plans. It requires the Superintendent of Insurance to disapprove premium rates unless the minimum medical loss ratio satisfies the statutory requirements for individual health plans. The changes apply to individual health plan rate filings submitted to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance beginning with the 2016 plan or policy year. The bill also requires meetings of the Board of Directors of the Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association to be open to the public.” [Maine Legislature, LD243, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Consumers With Information Regarding Health Care Costs**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Consumers With Information Regarding Health Care Costs.** Crafts was one of only 12 “Nay” votes against LD 636, “An Act To Provide Consumers of Health Care with Information Regarding Health Care Costs.” “This bill requires all health insurance carriers offering individual and group health plans to provide certain information with respect to prescription drug coverage to prospective enrollees and enrollees on its publicly accessible website. The bill requires carriers to post each prescription drug formulary for each health plan in a manner that allows enrollees to determine whether a particular prescription drug is covered under a formulary. The bill also requires carriers to provide information about utilization review, prior authorization or step therapy, cost-sharing, exclusions from coverage and the amount of coverage for out-of-network providers or noncovered health care services.” [Maine Legislature, LD636, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require Health Insurers To Provide Coverage For Nutritional Wellness And Illness Prevention Care**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require Health Insurers To Provide Coverage For Nutritional Wellness And Illness Prevention Care.** Crafts voted against LD 682, “An Act To Require Health Insurers To Provide Coverage For Nutritional Wellness And Illness Prevention Measures and Products.” “The purpose of this bill is to improve health, reduce health care usage and costs and help prevent disease through nutritional wellness and illness prevention measures and allow for nonpharmacological health care alternatives for enrollees who choose them. The bill requires that health insurance policies provide coverage for nutritional wellness and illness prevention measures that are shown to be beneficial to the enrollee and are recommended by the enrollee's physician. The bill applies to all individual and group policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2014.” [Maine Legislature, LD682, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Enable An Alternative Organizational Structure To Purchase Group Health Insurance For Its Employees**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Enable An Alternative Organizational Structure To Purchase Group Health Insurance For Its Employees.** Crafts was one of only 13 “Nay” votes against LD 1517, “An Act To Enable an Alternative Organizational Structure To Purchase Group Health Insurance for Its Employees.” “This bill allows the governing body of an alternative organizational structure to obtain health insurance loss information for all of the alternative organizational structure's member school administrative units' employees and retirees and their dependents on an aggregate basis and to purchase a single health insurance policy that is offered to all eligible employees and retirees of the alternative organizational structure and its member school administrative units and their dependents.” [Maine Legislature, LD1517, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

**Crafts Opposed Funding A State-Run Program That Expanded Medicaid, Created Subsidized Private Health Insurance, And Helped To Improve Quality And Lower Health Care Costs**

**Crafts Wanted To Stop State Funding To Fund The State Run Health Care Program.** In an interview with Sun Journal, Crafts state that “The DirigoHealth program was designed to be self-funded. It should be re-evaluated so that it can become the self-sufficient entity it was originally intended to be. Using additional state funding has not helped the program and, along with an increased burden on taxpayers, has still yielded a failing health plan.” [Sun Journal, 10/26/08]

**Maine’s Dirigo Health Expanded Medicaid, Created Subsidized Private Health Insurance, And Helped To Improve Quality And Lower Health Care Costs.** “Certainly Maine’s Dirigo Health reform is a microcosm in this sea of change, but a full decade after its enactment the similarities are striking. Both reforms created subsidized, private health insurance, negotiated by an independent entity; both expanded Medicaid and included strategies to improve quality and lower cost; and both met with strong, well-organized conservative opposition. Always controversial, Dirigo survived numerous assaults. Gov. Paul LePage campaigned to end the program, but instead the program continued and accepted new enrollees, albeit with reduced funding.” [Bangor Daily News, [12/27/13](#)]

*NOTE: Dirigo Health Program was a state government run agency that ended December of 2013 when ACA was implemented.*

**Additional State Services**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Tax Credits For Adult Day Care And Respite And Hospice Care**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Tax Credits For Adult Day Care And Respite And Hospice Care.** Crafts was one of only 5 “Nay” votes against LD 787, “An Act To Provide Tax Credits for Adult Day Care

and Respite and Hospice Care.” “This bill expands the income tax credit for child and dependent care expenses to include expenses paid for adult day care, respite care and hospice care.” [Maine Legislature, LD787, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

### **Crafts Was The Sole Opposition Vote Against A Bill That Would Direct The Department Of Health And Human Services To Increase Reimbursement Rates For Home-Based And Community-Based Services**

---

#### **Crafts Was The Sole Opposition Vote Against A Bill That Would Direct The Department Of Health And Human Services To Increase Reimbursement Rates For Home-Based And Community-Based Services.**

Crafts was the sole “Nay” vote against LD 886, “Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Increase Reimbursement Rates for Home-based and Community-based Services.” “This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the reimbursement rates for home-based and community-based services by January 15, 2016.” [Maine Legislature, LD886, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Improve Community Mental Health Treatment For People With Chronic Mental Illness**

---

#### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Improve Community Mental Health Treatment For People With Chronic Mental Illness.**

Crafts voted against LD 87, “An Act To Improve Community Mental Health Treatment.” “This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop programs to provide services and housing to persons with chronic mental illness. The programs must be designed to ensure psychiatric rehabilitation and to improve the rehabilitation and recovery of persons with chronic mental illness. The programs must provide medically necessary health and mental health services to persons with chronic mental illness in the least restrictive setting that is consistent with the person's choice and individual treatment plan and within the person's chosen community and provide housing options to persons with chronic mental illness including a person's home or group residential setting or another configuration according to the person's choice.” [Maine Legislature, LD87, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

### **Crafts Supported Exempting Church-Based Organizations From State Insurance Regulations, Even Though Critics Claimed It Could Leave Participants With “Devastating Gaps In Coverage”**

---

**Crafts Supported Exempting Church-Based Organizations, That Sold Health Care Coverage From State Insurance Regulations.** “Church-based organizations that sell health care coverage to the faithful will be exempt from state insurance regulations under a new law that is expected to garner final endorsement from Maine lawmakers this week. ‘Regulators across the country ... have continuously attacked these ministries, claiming they are insurance,’ [...] But Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, said his daughter and her family have benefited from their membership in a health care sharing ministry. He compared the ‘person-helping-person’ model to an old-fashioned barn-raising and said it would bring down the cost of health care.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/19/11]

**Bangor Daily News: Critics Claimed Participants In These Programs Were Vulnerable To “Unethical Administrative Behaviors And Potentially Devastating Gaps In Coverage.”** “Critics counter that participants in such programs are left vulnerable to unethical administrative behaviors and potentially devastating gaps in coverage. And because members of health care sharing ministries already are exempted from the federal requirement that all Americans obtain health insurance by 2014, opponents argue the ministries are providing a service that is like insurance and therefore should be subject to regulation.” [Bangor Daily News, 5/19/11]

## **Coronavirus**

### **Trump And Federal Recommendations**



---

## **Crafts Said Trump Had “Done His Best To Keep The Country Informed” About The COVID-19 Crisis.**

---

### **Crafts Said Trump Had “Done His Best To Keep The Country Informed” About The COVID-19 Crisis.**

“Asked about Trump’s leadership during these tumultuous times, Crafts said the president has done his best to keep the country informed. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed more than 110,000 Americans since February, has been a challenge, they said. ‘Nobody was prepared for this, including him and his administration,’ Crafts said. ‘This is something nobody saw coming.’” [Sun Journal, 6/11/20]

---

## **Crafts: “I’m Not Sure If Everybody Knows Which Science Is True Or Not”**

---

**Crafts: “I’m Not Sure If Everybody Knows Which Science Is True Or Not.”** “Well you know the science is all over the place, if you remember George, at the beginning they told us not to wear face masks, then they told us wear face masks and the WHO came out, I think it was like 3 weeks ago, well you shouldn’t be wearing masks because it could make you more sick. So I’m not sure if everybody knows which science is true or not. I think our government’s job is to inform us, you know, on the disease, on the coronavirus, inform us on how to take care of ourselves, how to protect ourselves, but not constitutionally, unconstitutionally shut us down but allow us adults to make our own decisions. I think that’s where we need to, be I think the people that have health care or elderly has been educated by the government that they need to be very careful in where they go, but young healthy people I don’t think should be shut down so they can’t provide for their family and make a living.” [WVOM Radio, [6/25/20](#)]

---

## **Economic Restrictions**

---

---

### **Crafts Supported A Lawsuit Against Maine Governor Mills Attempting To Loosen Economic Restrictions Put Into Place To Curb The Spread Of COVID-19**

---

**Crafts Supported A Lawsuit Against Maine Governor Mills Attempting To Loosen Economic Restrictions Put Into Place To Curb The Spread Of COVID-19.** “A group of nine Maine businesses filed suit Friday against Gov. Janet Mills in a bid to force the state to loosen economic restrictions that have forced them to shut down as part of an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. The lawsuit asks a U.S. District Court to rule that Mills’ executive orders restricting business activity are unconstitutional and to bar her from issuing similar ones in the future. [...] Lisbon businessman Dale Crafts, a Republican running for the U.S. House in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, initially planned to be one of the plaintiffs in the case. He said in a Facebook video Thursday evening that Mills’ shutdown was making things ‘worse than the virus,’ which has killed more than 75,000 people in the country in the past two months. Crafts said Friday, though, that he did not want ‘history to show that this was a partisan political score,’ but rather ‘a challenge to the power of the executive branch.’ Crafts said it was about ‘getting Maine back to work’ and shouldn’t be partisan or politicized.” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 5/9/20]

---

### **Crafts Attended A Rally Calling For Maine’s Economy To Open In The Midst Of COVID-19**

---

**Crafts Attended A Rally Calling For Maine’s Economy To Open In The Midst Of COVID-19.** “Candidates for Maine’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Adrienne Bennett, Dale Crafts and Eric Brakey also attended the rally [...] in Augusta at the State House with hundreds of people protesting what they call Mills’ overly restrictive orders, and demanded reopening Maine’s economy faster than the governor had planned.” [Sun Journal, 5/2/20]

---

### **Crafts Said The Economy Was A Top Concern During COVID-19 And Called For Maine To Find “Creative Ways To Get Businesses Up And Running”**

---

**Crafts Said The Economy Was A Top Concern During COVID-19 And Called For Maine To Find “Creative Ways To Get Businesses Up And Running.”** “Another Republican challenger to Golden, Dale Crafts, a former state lawmaker from Lisbon, also cited the economy as a top concern. ‘We need to find that balance of getting people back to work and yet staying healthy and finding creative ways to get businesses up and running without spreading the virus,’ he said.” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 4/26/20]

---

## **Crafts Called Protesting Against COVID-19 Restrictions “Remain[ing] Diligent In Our Protection Of Freedom”**

---

**Crafts Called Protesting Against COVID-19 Restrictions “Remain[ing] Diligent In Our Protection Of Freedom.”** “Crafts said that while he couldn’t attend the rally, he backs it. ‘America is built on the greatest principle of all: freedom,’ he said. ‘While we have all been impacted by COVID-19, we must remain diligent in our protection of freedom.’” [Kennebec Journal, 4/21/20]

---

## **Crafts Said We Were “Making The Pandemic Worse” With Regulations**

---

**Crafts Said We Were “Making The Pandemic Worse” With Regulations.** “Well I know that you know our bodies are wonderfully made and created and that they have this amazing ability to build up immunities against disease and so just like we have with flus and different things that we’ve all experienced. And so I don’t think that other than young people that are very, that are vulnerable because of health issues we can not. What’s happening is we’re making the pandemic worse, the shutdown worse than the pandemic. And it’s actually going to be a lot more effects of people, suicide rates, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, domestic violence, we’re actually creating a bigger problem.” [WVOM Radio, [6/25/20](#)]

---

## **Coronavirus Relief Bills**

---

---

### **Crafts Supported The Main Federal COVID-19 Relief Act, Saying It “Takes The Necessary Steps” To Stabilize The Economy**

---

**Crafts Supported The Main Federal COVID-19 Relief Act, Saying It “Takes The Necessary Steps” To Stabilize The Economy.** “Crafts said the bill ‘takes the necessary steps to help move toward stabilizing our economy and ensuring small businesses across Maine and America are still open for business when we defeat this invisible enemy. These steps are crucial to ensure that we do not repeat the collapse of 2008.’ The bill, the largest spending package in American history, would create a large loan program to help businesses large and small, pump up the unemployment insurance program, direct money to hospitals and public health, and send \$1,200 or more to nearly every American household within a few weeks.” [Sun Journal, 3/26/20]

---

### **Crafts Said COVID Relief Bills Were Necessary Because The US Wasn’t Ready For A Pandemic And That While He Supported The Bills, He Would Push For A Balanced Budget Amendment In Congress**

---

**Crafts Said COVID Relief Bills Were Necessary Because The US Wasn’t Ready For A Pandemic And That While He Supported The Bills, He Would Push For A Balanced Budget Amendment In Congress.** “Every single Republican and Democrat voted for that spending package in the senate and that’s why, they sat down and they looked at the seriousness of this country possibly with a shutdown. All these businesses, millions of businesses woulda went broke and yes I don’t like it, when I get to Washington I am going to push for a balanced budget amendment and term limits because we have got to fix the problem. We should have been ready for this pandemic and we weren’t and that’s why they voted for it.” [WMTW TV, 6/30/20]

---

## **Prescription Drug Costs**

---

---

### **Crafts Said The Answer To Skyrocketing Prescription Drug Costs Was To “Have Competition” And Allow People To Buy Medicine From Canada**

---

**Crafts Said The Answer To Skyrocketing Prescription Drug Costs Was To “Have Competition” And Allow People To Buy Medicine From Canada.** “Well for one thing we have over 60 million people on Medicare that the government provides some of the prescription drugs but all of the developing countries negotiate with the pharmaceuticals except the US does not negotiate. That's why when people say they can go to Canada and buy prescription drugs or the prices in Canada are for less money. So I'm a free market capitalist and I believe that

competition brings prices down and we ought to be able to purchase our drugs wherever the lowest price is, long as the right laws are in place and safe drugs and the regulations behind them so we need to continue to open up, have competition and do the very best to have quality drugs at affordable prices.” [Maine Public Radio, [6/24/20](#)]

## Opioids

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Access To Opioid Analgesics With Abuse-Deterrent Properties

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Access To Opioid Analgesics With Abuse-Deterrent Properties.** Crafts was one of only 13 “Nay” votes against LD 919, “An Act To Provide Access to Opioid Analgesics with Abuse-deterrent Properties.” “This bill requires all health insurance carriers offering individual and group health plans to provide coverage for abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic drug products as preferred drugs on any formulary, preferred drug list or other list of drugs used by the carrier. The bill applies to all policies and contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2016.” [Maine Legislature, LD919, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### Crafts Supported A Two-Year Cap On Methadone Treatment, Even Though Critics Claimed The Cap Failed To Recognize That Opiate Addiction Required Long-Term Treatment

**Crafts Op-Ed: Crafts Supported A Two-Year Cap On Methadone Treatment.** “They tried to repeal the new two-year cap on methadone treatment and resisted efforts to relieve the taxpayers from having to subsidize cab fares to get to the methadone clinics.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

**Democrat Said The Two-Year Limit Failed To Recognize That Opiate Addiction Was A Disease That Required Long-Term Treatment.** “Rep. Linda Sanborn, a Gorham Democrat and retired physician, said the two-year limit fails to recognize that opiate addiction is a disease requiring long-term treatment. ‘We’re not looking at setting a length of time on giving people insulin for their diabetes, and we shouldn’t be looking at setting an arbitrary time to treat with methadone,’ she said.” [Bangor Daily News, [3/19/12](#)]

**Democrat Said The Reason For The Discussion Had Nothing To Do With Science But Because Of The Stigma Around Drug Addiction.** “Rep. Linda Sanborn, a Gorham Democrat and retired physician, said the two-year limit fails to recognize that opiate addiction is a disease requiring long-term treatment. [...] ‘It is only because of the stigma that revolves around drug addiction that we’re having this discussion. It has nothing to do with science.’ “Recovering addicts take regular doses of methadone to curb cravings as they go through therapy. The dosing and length of treatment varies widely, depending on the individual, and can go on for years.” [Bangor Daily News, [3/19/12](#)]

**The Bill Sponsor Acknowledged He Didn’t Have A Scientific Basis For The Two-Year Cap.** “The bill’s sponsor, Republican Rep. David Burns of Whiting, acknowledged he didn’t have a scientific basis for the two-year cap, but said it seemed reasonable and was in line with the time limit on Suboxone. ‘I’m a layperson, I’m not a physician, but it would seem to me after two years of treatment there ought to be enough treatment information there to know if you need to continue, and if so, why shouldn’t that be documented?’ he said. ‘Especially where it’s being covered under MaineCare Services.’” [Bangor Daily News, [3/19/12](#)]

## Abortion

### Crafts Opposed Abortion In All Cases, With No Exception For Rape Or Incest

**Crafts Opposed Abortion In All Cases, With No Exception For Rape Or Incest.** “Crafts, who if elected this year would be among the most right wing members of Congress. He opposes abortion in all cases, with no exception for rape or incest, would repeal the Affordable Care Act and favors privatizing Social Security. He just

won a primary in which the key issue was who would be the most loyal to Donald Trump.” [Portland Press Herald, 7/19/20]

**Crafts: “I’m Pro-life With Out Exception.”** In response to the question “Under what circumstances should abortion be allowed?” Crafts wrote “I’m Pro-life with out exception. God chooses life not humans.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### **Crafts Supported Defunding Planned Parenthood, Which Provided Health Care Like Cancer Screenings To 8,700 Mainers**

**Crafts Believed Abortion Providers, Including Planned Parenthood, Should Not Receive Any Taxpayer Money.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in reference to the statement that “Abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood, should not receive taxpayer funds or grants from federal, state, or local governments.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

**Planned Parenthood Provided Services Like Cancer Screenings, Birth Control, And Testing To 2.4 Million Patients A Year – Including 8,700 Mainers.** “Every year, 2.4 million people like Carol rely on Planned Parenthood for high quality, affordable health care — including cancer screenings, birth control, STD and HIV testing and treatment and other care. Women, men and young people are all at risk of losing their health care if efforts to defund Planned Parenthood succeed. Right here in Maine more than 8,700 patients rely on Planned Parenthood.” [Planned Parenthood, accessed [7/24/20](#)]

## **Vaccines**

### **Crafts Supported A Bill That Would Allow Religious And Philosophical Exemptions For Mandatory Vaccines**

**Crafts Supported A Bill That Would Allow Religious And Philosophical Exemptions For Mandatory Vaccines.** “Like so much else these days, Tuesday’s referendum on vaccines is dividing along partisan lines. Republicans are much more likely to support Question 1 — which favors allowing religious and philosophical exemptions for mandatory vaccines — than Democrats. [...] Republican Dale Crafts of Lisbon, who is running for Congress in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, said he favors the referendum. ‘For me, it is my belief in the foundation of family. As a parent, we are charged to exercise parental control over our children and exercise that right for what is best for them,’ Crafts said. ‘I do not believe the government should interject themselves in that American principle of freedom.’” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 2/29/20]

## Labor and Working Family Issues

### Significant Findings

- ✓ *In 2020, Crafts said the current Maine minimum wage was “too high” and there should be no minimum wage except “whatever the market allows it to be”*
- ✓ *Crafts supported a business group’s efforts to undercut a ballot initiative that raised Maine’s minimum wage to \$12.*
- ✓ *In 2015, Crafts voted against raising the minimum wage to \$8 per hour.*
- ✓ *Crafts supported reforming the workers' compensation system because it encouraged an “entitlement mentality,” even though critics called the reform “a windfall to insurance companies.”*
- ✓ *In 2012, Crafts supported Maine legislation that tightened the eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits.*
- ✓ *Crafts supported right to work legislation.*
- ✓ *Crafts opposed requiring businesses to provide paid medical leave, even during public health crises including COVID-19.*
- ✓ *Crafts was on the side of DeCoster, an egg farm that was accused of “serious” and “willful” violations and fined \$2 million by the Department of Labor.*

## Minimum Wage

### **Crafts Said The Current Maine Minimum Wage Was “Too High” And That There Should Be No Minimum Wage Except “Whatever The Market Allows It To Be”**

**Crafts Said The Current Maine Minimum Wage Was “Too High” And That There Should Be No Minimum Wage Except “Whatever The Market Allows It To Be.”** “It should be whatever the market allows it to be, that’s what free markets all about, you know what people do got to make a wage but what you gotta do is grow the economy so the wage is higher than the minimum wage now. So you know what that minimum is, I think in Maine we certainly put it up too high and it put a lot of businesses out, you can talk to a lot of businesses they’re out of business because the minimum wage went too high so let the free market decide.” [WMTW TV, [6/30/20](#)]

### **Crafts Supported Business Group Efforts To Undercut A Ballot Initiative That Raised Maine’s Minimum Wage To \$12**

**Crafts Voted In Favor Of Business Groups Trying To Undercut A Ballot Initiative To Raise Maine’s Minimum Wage To \$12.** “Democrats in the Maine House of Representatives on Thursday dealt a crucial blow to business groups looking to undercut a ballot initiative from progressive groups to raise the state's hourly minimum wage to \$12. How local legislators voted on LD 1661. The measure failed. Rep. Dale J. Crafts (R-Lisbon) Y.” [Sun Journal, 3/17/16]

**Business Groups Wanted To Introduce A Competing Proposal That Increased The Minimum Wage To \$10 By 2020.** “The progressive groups' initiative would raise Maine's hourly minimum wage from \$7.50 to \$9 in 2017, then by \$1 annually until it reaches \$12 in 2020, thereafter indexing it to inflation. It also would raise

Maine's tipped hourly minimum wage from \$3.75 to \$5 in 2017. Then, it will rise each year until it reaches the non-tipped minimum. The initiative qualified for the ballot in February. The Legislature can only send it to voters, pass the bill itself or put a competing measure on the ballot alongside it. The latter is what many Maine business groups want, rolling out a proposal in February to raise the minimum wage to \$10 by 2020." [Sun Journal, 3/17/16]

### **Crafts Voted Against Raising The Minimum Wage To \$8.00 Per Hour**

**Crafts Voted Against Raising The Minimum Wage To \$8.00 Per Hour.** Crafts voted largely along party lines against LD 92, "An Act To Increase the Minimum Wage to \$8.00 per Hour." "This bill raises the minimum wage to \$8.00 per hour beginning October 1, 2015." [Maine Legislature, LD92, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require The Prevailing Wage To Be Paid For State-Funded Public Works Projects**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require The Prevailing Wage To Be Paid For State-Funded Public Works Projects.** Crafts voted largely along party lines against LD 117, "An Act To Require the Prevailing Wage To Be Paid on All Public Works Projects for Which State Funding Is Used." "This bill amends the laws requiring the preference for Maine residents and the payment of prevailing wages in public works contracts to remove the exemption under those laws for contracts in amounts less than \$50,000." [Maine Legislature, LD117, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Prohibit Municipalities From Having Lower Minimum Wages Than The State**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Prohibit Municipalities From Having Lower Minimum Wages Than The State.** Crafts voted against LD 1361, "An Act To Promote Minimum Wage Consistency." "This bill prohibits a municipality or any other political subdivision of the State from enacting an ordinance governing the minimum wage that an employer must pay an employee." [Maine Legislature, LD1361, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Adjust Maine's Minimum Wage Annually To Account For Cost-Of-Living Increases**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Adjust Maine's Minimum Wage Annually To Account For Cost-Of-Living Increases.** Crafts voted against LD 611, "An Act To Adjust Maine's Minimum Wage Annually Based on Cost-of-living Changes." "This bill raises the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour beginning October 1, 2013, and it requires the minimum hourly wage to be adjusted for inflation on October 1st of each year, beginning October 1, 2014." [Maine Legislature, LD611, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

## **Livable Incomes**

### **Crafts Did Not Think The Government Had Any Responsibility To Ensure Livable Incomes**

**Crafts Did Not Think The Government Had Any Responsibility To Ensure Livable Incomes.** Crafts chose "Strongly Disagree" in response to the statement "It is the government's responsibility to ensure everyone has a livable income." [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Workers Compensation And Unemployment**

## **Crafts Supported A Reform To The Workers' Compensation System; Critics Called The Plan “A Windfall To Insurance Companies”**

**Crafts Supported An Overhaul To Maine’s Workers’ Compensation System, Claiming It Encouraged An “Entitlement Mentality.”** “A bill to overhaul Maine's workers' compensation system that has been in the works for months became the latest measure to divide Republicans and Democrats in Augusta. The majority report of LD 1913 passed 75-71 along sharp party lines after considerable debate on Thursday in the Maine House. [...] Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, however, said he thinks the workers' compensation system encourages the ‘entitlement mentality.’ [Bangor Daily News, 4/12/12]

**Crafts Was Tired Of Seeing People Who Were “Supposedly Disabled” Collect Benefits.** “He said he's tired of seeing people who are ‘supposedly disabled’ collect benefits.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/12/12]

**Crafts: “The Problem With Our Society Today Is We Look For A Way Not To Work.”** “The problem with our society today is we look for a way not to work,’ he said.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/12/12]

**Republicans Said The Bill Was A Way To Improve A System That Had Not Been Significantly Altered Since The Maine Workers' Compensation Act Was Established In 1992.** “Republicans said the bill is a way to improve a system that hasn't been significantly altered since the Maine Workers' Compensation Act was established in 1992. Rep. Kerri Prescott, R-Topsham, House chairwoman of the Labor Committee, said the bill contains a lot of good reforms that put Maine in line with many other states. ‘We keep hearing that workers will fall through the cracks, but [10 years of benefits] isn't falling through the cracks,’ she said.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/12/12]

**The Bill Would Decrease The Maximum Benefit, Shorten The Time To Notify Of An Injury, And Create A 10 Year Cap For Employees Who Were Permanently Impaired.** “Among other things, the bill: Changes the maximum benefit from 80 percent of an employee's net weekly wages to 66 percent of gross weekly wages. Eliminates a requirement that employers must continue paying benefits during an appeal. Creates a new appeals divisions and gives it authority to create rules of procedure. Shortens the time in which a notice of injury must be given from 90 days to 30 days. Alters eligibility requirements and creates a 10-year cap for employees who are permanently impaired with partial incapacity.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/12/12]

---

## **Critics Called The Overhaul “A Windfall To Insurance Companies”**

---

**Bangor Daily News: Critics Said The Bill Was “A Windfall To Insurance Companies Because They Will Pay Out Less Money If The Changes Are Approved.”** “Rep. Robert Hunt, D-Buxton, said the bill is a windfall to insurance companies because they will pay out less money if the changes are approved. Hunt also said he doesn't mind that Maine is more generous than the bordering states of Massachusetts and New Hampshire when it comes to programs such as workers' compensation. ‘In Maine, we take care of each other,’ he said.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/12/12]

## **Crafts Supported Maine Legislation That Would Tighten Eligibility Requirements For Unemployment Benefits**

**Crafts Supported Maine Legislation That Would Tighten Eligibility Requirements For Unemployment Benefits.** “The Maine House and Senate on Wednesday gave initial approval to a bill that would tighten eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits in an effort to combat fraud. LD 1725, sponsored by Sen. Chris Rector, R-Thomaston, makes a number of changes to how the state distributes benefits for those who are unemployed. [...] ‘I don't know why we continue to go after our workers the way we do,’ said Sen. John Patrick, D-Rumford. [...] Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, however said the bill helps small businesses that already have enough to worry about without having to deal with bogus unemployment claims. LD 1725 still requires additional votes in the House and Senate. [Bangor Daily News, 4/11/12]

## Unions

### Crafts Said He Supported Right To Work Legislation

**Crafts Said He Supported Right To Work Legislation.** “I support the First Amendment first and foremost. However, I support Right to Work legislation to provide an individual choice on being apart of a union.” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### Crafts Said “We Need Negotiators” To Work Out A Union Contract And “Get People Back To Work” During COVID-19

**Crafts Said “We Need Negotiators” To Work Out A Union Contract And “Get People Back To Work” During COVID-19.** “We need to have these two sides come together with this union contract, when both sides are reasonable and negotiating, and we need negotiators. That’s what I do in business, I’ve always been a negotiator. We need to bring these negotiators together and sit down and both sides be reasoned and get people back to work because people are without pay right now.” [WMTW TV, [6/30/20](#)]

## Workplace Safety And Accommodations

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Update Maine Law To Conform To New Federal OSHA Regulations

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Update Maine Law To Conform To New Federal OSHA Regulations.** Crafts was one of only 11 “Nay” votes against LD 699, “An Act To Update Maine Law To Conform to New Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration Regulations.” “This bill ensures that the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards is in compliance with recent changes made by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration to its injury and illness recordkeeping requirements. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires state plan states to implement these changes to conform to the new requirements no later than July 1, 2015, or risk a loss of federal reimbursement.” [Maine Legislature, LD699, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Legal Relief To Employees From Abusive Work Environments

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Legal Relief To Employees From Abusive Work Environments.** Crafts voted against LD 188, “An Act To Protect Employees from Abusive Work Environments.” “This bill provides legal relief for employees who have been harmed psychologically, physically or economically by exposure to abusive work environments. Employees and employers who subject an employee to an abusive work environment are liable, and employers are vicariously liable for the abusive workplace conduct of their employees, in a private civil action brought by the affected employee. The legal remedies made available by this bill do not limit any other legal rights of an individual, except that workers' compensation benefits received under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A for the same injury or illness must be reimbursed from compensation that is earned through the legal remedies made available by this bill.” [Maine Legislature, LD188, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Make It Unlawful For Employers To Fail to Provide Workplace Accommodations For Breastfeeding People

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Make It Unlawful For Employers To Fail to Provide Workplace Accommodations For Breastfeeding People.** Crafts voted against LD 777, “An Act To Protect Working Mothers Who Breast-feed.” “This bill provides that it is unlawful employment discrimination under the Maine Human



Rights Act for an employer to fail to provide certain workplace accommodations for an employee with a nursing child.” [Maine Legislature, LD777, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Reduce Exposure To Highly Toxic Chemicals In The Workplace**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Reduce Exposure To Highly Toxic Chemicals In The Workplace.** Crafts voted against LD 1165, “An Act To Enact the Toxic Chemicals in the Workplace Act.” “This bill enacts the Toxic Chemicals in the Workplace Act to create a statutory and regulatory framework designed to prevent harm to employees by reducing exposure to highly toxic chemicals in the workplace and thereby decrease the rates of cancer and other chronic diseases in the State, improve workplace chemical management and safety and ensure safer workplaces and healthier communities.” [Maine Legislature, LD 1165, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### **Paid Leave**

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Allow Working People To Take Family Medical Leave To Care For A Grandparent Or Great-Grandparent**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Allow Working People To Take Family Medical Leave To Care For A Grandparent Or Great-Grandparent.** Crafts voted against LD 960, “An Act To Support Family Caregivers in the Workforce.” “Under current law, family medical leave may be taken by an employee to care for a child, domestic partner's child, parent, domestic partner, sibling or spouse with a serious health condition. This bill adds to this list "grandparent" and "great-grandparent" and further provides that family medical leave may be taken in connection with the serious health condition experienced by any of these listed individuals related to the employee by blood, adoption, legal custody, marriage or domestic partnership.” [Maine Legislature, LD960, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### **Crafts Opposed Requiring Businesses To Provide Paid Medical Leave, Even During Public Health Crises Including COVID-19**

**Crafts Opposed Requiring Businesses To Provide Paid Medical Leave, Even During Public Health Crises Including COVID-19.** Crafts answered “No” to the question “Do you support requiring businesses to provide paid medical leave during public health crisis, such as COVID-19?” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### **Crafts Was On The Side Of DeCoster, An Egg Farm That Was Accused Of “Serious” And “Willful” Violations And Fined \$2 Million By The Department Of Labor**

### **Crafts Opposed Allowing Employees Of DeCoster To Unionize And Opposed Requiring DeCoster To Pay Employees Overtime...**

**Crafts Sponsored A Bill That Eliminated The Right Of Workers To Unionize At An Egg Farm.** “Maine's House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday that eliminates the right of workers at the former DeCoster Egg Farms to unionize. The bill, L.D. 1207, passed 73-69 along party lines, with Republicans in support and Democrats opposed. It still faces more votes in the House and Senate. [...] State Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon Falls, said no other farm workers in Maine or elsewhere in the U.S., other than one county in California, have the right to unionize. Crafts is the lead sponsor of the bill, which aims to repeal a law Maine enacted in 1997 that afforded collective bargaining and overtime rights to large-scale egg farms with 100 or more employees and more than 500,000 laying hens.” [Kennebec Journal, 2/22/12]

**2011: Crafts Opposed Requiring DeCoster To Pay Employees Overtime.** “Crafts' original version of LD 1207 would have repealed the overtime provision. That proposal riled labor and immigrant advocates during a heated public hearing held earlier this month. Prior to Friday's work session, Crafts amended the bill to strike the overtime provision, saying DeCoster didn't intend to stop paying overtime anyway. ‘It's just the right thing to do,’ Crafts said. It's not clear why the overtime repeal was included in the original bill. When asked, Crafts only said that the entire bill was designed to stop legislation targeting the company. ‘The thing is, it really worries me that we can select a business and legislate laws just for one individual,’ he said. ‘I think it's absolutely unconstitutional, in my opinion.’ He added, ‘It's a very scary path to go down. In America we're supposed to be free.’” [Sun Journal, 4/29/11]

---

**Decoster Was Considered More Of A Factory Than A Farm, Which Prompted The Legislature To Require Decoster To Pay Its Workers Overtime And A Minimum Wage In 1975**

---

**Decoster Was Considered More Of A Factory Than A Farm, Which Prompted The Legislature To Require Decoster To Pay Its Workers Overtime And A Minimum Wage In 1975.** “At the time of the legislation, however, supporters argued that DeCoster was more factory than farm and that workers there should be afforded those same rights. That reasoning also prompted the Legislature to require DeCoster to pay its workers overtime and a minimum wage in 1975. Federal law doesn't allow agricultural workers to earn overtime.” [Sun Journal, 4/29/11]

**Federal Law Prohibits Most Agricultural Workers From Unionizing But Maine Had Adopted Laws Permitting Collective Bargaining With Conditions.** “Federal law prohibits most agricultural workers from unionizing. However, some states such as Maine have adopted laws that permit collective bargaining at agricultural facilities that are more factory than farm.” [Bangor Daily News, [6/10/11](#)]

**...And After Crafts Introduced The Anti-Union Legislation, He Claimed DeCoster Was Being Sold To Convince People To Support His Bill**

---

**Crafts Said DeCoster Company Was In Sale Negotiations With Land O'Lakes Inc., Hoping To Change Minds Of Those Who Did Not Like DeCoster Because Of Past Workplace And Labor Violations**

---

**Crafts Told Fellow House Members That DeCoster Company Was In Sale Negotiations With Land O'Lakes Inc.** “The sponsor of a bill that would remove workers' right to unionize at the Jack DeCoster-owned Quality Egg Farm in Turner told the House of Representatives on Thursday morning that the company was in sale negotiations with a subsidiary of Land O'Lakes Inc. [...] Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon Falls, who spoke before the 74-68 vote along party lines, said after the decision that the Maine law was a sticking point in sale negotiations, a point proponents of the bill made during the GOP caucus Thursday morning. [Bangor Daily News, [6/10/11](#)]

**Crafts Had Hoped To Change Minds Of Those Who Did Not Like DeCoster Because Of Past Workplace And Labor Violations.** “Crafts acknowledged afterward that he hoped telling lawmakers about the sale would change the minds of those uncomfortable with backing legislation that benefits DeCoster, a company nationally known for its checkered history of workplace and labor violations. ‘I thought it would help ... the people who don't like DeCoster,’ Crafts said. ‘They'd say, ‘OK, [Jack DeCoster's] going to go away. I thought it may help with the opposition who say, ‘Hey, we don't like the guy. This is my opportunity to be part of getting him.’” [Bangor Daily News, [6/10/11](#)]

---

**Land O'Lakes Had No Investment In The Legislation But Were Concerned About The Bill**

---

**Land O'Lakes Had No Investment In The Legislation But Were Concerned About Maine's Law That Allowed Agricultural Workers To Unionize.** “A representative from Land O'Lakes would neither confirm nor deny that the two sides were in talks. ‘Land O'Lakes does not comment on rumors or speculation in the marketplace,’ wrote spokeswoman Jeanne Forbis in an e-mail. ‘Additionally, we have no involvement with legislation being considered in Maine relating to unionization of agricultural workers.’ Chris Grimbalis, a

representative from Quality Egg, said Thursday that the negotiations were preliminary. However, he indicated that Land O'Lakes had concerns about Maine's law. 'There is an interest, but there's nothing in writing on the table,' Grimbalis told the Maine Public Broadcasting Network. 'There are several concerns that they have, and LD 1207 is one of them.'" [Bangor Daily News, [6/10/11](#)]

---

### **Crafts Denied That He Submitted Legislation For DeCoster And Said DeCoster Told Crafts To Go Public With Sale**

---

**Crafts Denied That He Submitted Legislation For DeCoster And Said DeCoster Told Crafts To Go Public With Sale.** "Crafts denied that he submitted the legislation on behalf of DeCoster. He said the company told him about the Land O'Lakes negotiations three days ago, although he acknowledged that he had heard rumors about it before that. 'They told me I could go public with it because it was public information,' he said." [Bangor Daily News, [6/10/11](#)]

---

### **Opponents Of The Legislation Were Skeptical Of The Timing Possible Sale Of DeCoster's Egg Farm**

---

**Opponents Of The Legislation Were Skeptical Of The Timing Possible Sale Of DeCoster's Egg Farm.** "Opponents of LD 1207 were skeptical of the timing. Rep. John Tuttle, D-Sanford, said that Maine had no evidence that sale negotiations were legitimate. "Why should we trust DeCoster when we've been lied to for decades?" Tuttle asked from the House floor. [Bangor Daily News, [6/10/11](#)]

### **The Egg Farm Was Found To Have Committed "Serious" And "Willful" Violations By The U.S. Department Of Labor, And Was Fined \$2 Million**

**The Egg Farm Was Found To Have Committed "Serious" And "Willful" Violations By The U.S. Department Of Labor.** "Documents from the U.S. Department of Labor and Occupational Safety and Health Administration show that the Turner facility committed 'serious' and 'willful' violations as recently as 2008 and other infractions as recently as 2009. News of those violations prompted Sen. Chris Rector, R-Thomaston, to say that he was withdrawing his support for the bill. Rector is the co-chairman of the Labor Committee. Crafts and Rep. Jeffrey Timberlake, R-Turner, a co-sponsor of the bill said such violations were common at large facilities." [Bangor Daily News, [6/10/11](#)]

**The U.S. Department Of Labor Fined DeCoster \$2 Million For "Gross Workplace Violations."** "Proponents of the 1997 bill that allowed workers at DeCoster to unionize said the workers at DeCoster should be afforded the same organizing rights as factory workers. The Legislature passed the bill after the U.S. Department of Labor fined DeCoster \$2 million for gross workplace violations. Crafts and proponents of LD 1207 argue the law is punitive and unfairly targets one company. DeCoster workers in Turner have attempted to organize once in 1997 but the effort failed." [Bangor Daily News, [6/10/11](#)]

### **Crafts Defended DeCoster, Claiming Past Problems At The Farm Had Subsided And That The Existing Laws Unfairly Target The Company**

**Crafts Was One Of Several Republicans That Sponsored Bills That Would Have Weakened Organized Labor.** "In a close vote that saw one Republican scramble back to the fold, the Legislature's Labor Committee backed an amended bill Friday that would eliminate workers' right to unionize at the DeCoster-owned Quality Egg farm in Turner. Several Republicans this session are supporting bills that could weaken organized labor. But opponents of LD 1207, sponsored by Lisbon Republican Rep. Dale Crafts, wonder how many lawmakers will be willing to stand alongside DeCoster, a company whose checkered track record of labor and public health violations triggered legislation in 1975 and 1997." [Sun Journal, 4/29/11]

**Crafts Defended DeCoster, Claiming Past Problems At The Farm Had Subsided And That The Existing Laws Unfairly Target The Company** "Crafts and GOP members on the panel argued that the problems at DeCoster had subsided and that the existing laws unfairly target the company. 'There's been no violations in 10

years,' Crafts said. 'I would say that the operation has really improved its ability to operate, conditionwise and everything. That's why we don't see as much accusations and complaints as we've seen in the past.' Crafts added, 'Hey, I'm the first one if somebody violates we prosecute, but we don't need a special law.' [...] That reasoning also prompted the Legislature to require DeCoster to pay its workers overtime and a minimum wage in 1975. Federal law doesn't allow agricultural workers to earn overtime." [Sun Journal, 4/29/11]

## Tax & Budgetary Issues

### Significant Findings

- ✓ *Crafts supported the 2017 Republican tax cut bill that added nearly two trillion to the debt, raised taxes on the middle class, cut taxes for the rich, and put Social Security and Medicare at risk.*
- ✓ *Asked how to cut government spending, Crafts suggesting spending less on boots and clothing for troops. The military's total spending on clothing and footwear – which Crafts only wanted to reduce slightly – accounted for just 0.3% of the budget deficit.*
- ✓ *Crafts claimed that tax cuts brought in more revenue, which could be used to reduce the debt.*
- ✓ *Crafts supported cutting corporate taxes.*

## Tax Increases And Cuts

### **Crafts Supported The GOP Tax Cut That Added Nearly \$2 Trillion To The Debt, Raised Taxes On The Middle Class, Cut Taxes For The Rich, And Put Social Security And Medicare At Risk**

**Crafts Supported The 2017 Republican Tax Cut Bill And Stated That The Bill Brought In More Revenue That Any Year In History.** “He praised President Trump for implementing a similar tax cut for all Americans, which has resulted in the U.S. Treasury bringing in more revenue this year than any year in history. He told his supporters that it is imperative to regain Maine’s 2nd Congressional District, and give President Trump a partner in Washington to continue to grow our economy, decrease the unemployment level and provide opportunity for all Americans to succeed.” [Dale Crafts for Congress, Press Release, [10/10/19](#)]

**Congressional Budget Office: The Republican Tax Cut Bill Would Increase The National Debt By \$1.854 Trillion Between 2018 And 2028.** “The 2017 tax act had significant effects on CBO’s budgetary projections for the 2018–2028 period. The agency took two steps to incorporate those effects into the projections. First, CBO estimated the act’s direct effects, which are the effects on the budget that do not take into account any changes to the aggregate economy. For example, this step incorporated the ways in which the act’s reduction in tax rates will diminish federal revenues through its effects on taxpayers’ behavior. Second, CBO considered macroeconomic feedback—that is, the ways in which the act will affect the budget by changing the overall economy (such as by increasing wages, profits, and interest rates). Incorporating both kinds of effects boosts the projected primary deficit by a cumulative \$1.272 trillion over the course of the 11-year period. After debt service too is incorporated, the projected deficit is higher by \$1.854 trillion (see Table B-3).” [Congressional Budget Office, Report, [April 2018](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “GOP Tax Law Will Add \$1.9 Trillion To Debt: CBO”** [The Hill, [4/9/18](#)]

**Tax Policy Center: In 2027, The Republican Tax Cut Bill Would Increase Taxes For 53% Of Taxpayers, Including 70% Of The Middle Income Quintile.** “The Tax Policy Center has released distributional estimates of the conference agreement for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act as filed on December 15, 2017. We find the bill would reduce taxes on average for all income groups in both 2018 and 2025. In general, higher income households receive larger average tax cuts as a percentage of after-tax income, with the largest cuts as a share of income going to taxpayers in the 95th to 99th percentiles of the income distribution. On average, in 2027 taxes would change little for lower- and middle-income groups and decrease for higher-income groups. Compared to current law, 5 percent of taxpayers would pay more tax in 2018, 9 percent in 2025, and 53 percent in 2027. [...] In 2027, 25 percent of taxpayers would experience a tax cut from the included provisions, averaging about \$1,500, and 53 percent would face an average tax increase of \$180 (table 6). In the bottom income quintile, 11 percent would receive a tax cut and

33 percent would face a tax increase. In the middle income quintile, 24 percent would receive a tax cut and 70 percent would face a tax increase. In the top 1 percent of the income distribution, 76 percent would receive a tax cut and 24 percent would face a tax increase.” [Tax Policy Center, [12/18/17](#)]

**Tax Policy Center: In 2027, 83% Of The Benefit From The Republican Tax Cut Bill Would Go To The Top One Percent Of Earners.** “The Tax Policy Center has released distributional estimates of the conference agreement for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act as filed on December 15, 2017. [...] In 2027, the overall average tax cut would be \$160, or 0.2 percent of after-tax income (table 3), largely because almost all individual income tax provisions would sunset after 2025. On average, taxes would be little changed for taxpayers in the bottom 95 percent of the income distribution. Taxpayers in the bottom two quintiles of the income distribution would face an average tax increase of 0.1 percent of after-tax income; taxpayers in the middle income quintile would see no material change on average; and taxpayers in the 95<sup>th</sup> to 99<sup>th</sup> income percentiles would receive an average tax cut of 0.2 percent of after-tax income. Taxpayers in the top 1 percent of the income distribution would receive an average tax cut of 0.9 percent of after-tax income, accounting for 83 percent of the total benefit for that year.” [Tax Policy Center, [12/18/17](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “The Republican Tax Bill Got Worse: Now The Top 1% Gets 83% Of The Gains”** [Vox, [12/18/17](#)]

**Budget Experts Argued The Republican Tax Cut Bill Could Result In Cuts To Medicare, Medicaid, And Social Security.** “The tax bill that Republicans are muscling through Congress could result in cuts to entitlement spending if it significantly increases the national debt, budget experts say. Republicans say the tax-cut package will lead to economic growth and greater tax revenues, but there are doubts even within their party about whether that growth will come to pass. The Joint Committee on Taxation, Congress’s official budget scorekeeper, estimated the bill would cost \$1 trillion over a decade even with economic growth taken into account. Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) opposed the bill for that reason. As the population ages and health-care costs continue to rise, the fiscal demands on entitlements like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are projected to grow. The projected increase in the debt from the tax package could make the situation worse, budget experts say.” [The Hill, [12/3/17](#)]

**After Passing A Tax Bill That Added Trillions To The Deficit, Speaker Paul Ryan Argued Medicare And Medicaid Would Need To Be “Reformed” In Order To Decrease The Deficit.** “With his dream of tax reform now realized, Ryan is hoping to make progress on two other issues he’s targeted during his two-decade career in Washington: entitlement and welfare reform. ‘We’re going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform, which is how you tackle the debt and the deficit,’ Ryan, a former Budget Committee chairman, said in a recent interview this month on the Ross Kaminsky radio talk show. Medicare and Medicaid are the ‘big drivers of debt,’ Ryan said, suggesting Republicans could once again use the budget reconciliation process to avoid a Democratic filibuster. Medicare is the ‘biggest entitlement that’s got to have reform,’ Ryan added.” [The Hill, [12/27/17](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “After Tax Overhaul, GOP Sets Sights on Medicare, Social Security”** [US News, [12/7/17](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “Tax Bill Could Fuel Push For Medicare, Social Security Cuts”** [The Hill, [12/3/17](#)]

**Asked How To Cut Government Spending, Crafts Suggested Spending Less On Boots And Clothes For Troops**

---

**Asked How He Would Cut Government Spending, Crafts Argued That The Military Spent Too Much On Boots And Apparel For Troops**

---

**Asked How He Would Cut Government Spending, Crafts Argued That The Military Was Spending Too Much On Boots And Apparel For Troops.** NEWS CENTER MAINE’S ROB CALDWELL: “You say that one of the things you want to do if you get to Washington is shrink the size of government. Where specifically would you cut?” CRAFTS: “Well, I’ll tell you what. When you’re in business, you have to, you know I get a financial statement from my office manager, and I have to look at every line and where the expenses are going up. Usually, they’re always going up and you have to find ways to do a good job. Listen, we don’t have a revenue problem in this country. It’s a spending problem. Government doesn’t run efficient like a business does. You’ve got to make a

bottom line. You know, this country, and a lot of countries just seem to—” CALDWELL: “Let me just jump in though, because I’m asking, where specifically would you cut?” CRAFTS: “Well, that’s where I’d cut. I would cut wasteful spending. Which is, in every form of government, there’s wasteful. You’ve got to bring fiscal hawks in that can look at the expensive lines and figure out how to run this country better like a businessman does.” CALDWELL: “I’m just asking, give me one or two concrete examples of where you would reduce spending.” CRAFTS: “Okay, well, I’ll give you one, okay. I’ve talked to some military people. I don’t want to shrink the size of our military. I want our military to run more efficiently in how they spend the money. I talked to a military guy that said his budget was left over. He has a hundred men underneath him, and they have so much money was budgeted to him. And, in the end, they were told they need to buy another pair of boots. I don’t need another pair of boots. I’ve got three pairs of boots. You need to get another jacket. Stock up on your supplies, because we want to make sure that we get that money the following year.” [NEWS CENTER Maine, [7/6/20](#)] (VIDEO)

---

### **In 2019, The Military’s Total Spend On Clothing And Footwear Made Up Just 0.3% Of The Deficit**

---

**Fiscal Year 2019: The Military Spent Nearly \$2.5 Billion On Procurement Of Clothing, Textiles, And Footwear.** “At nearly \$2.5 billion in FY2019, DOD’s procurement of clothing, textiles, and footwear made up approximately three-fourths of DOD’s contract obligations subject to the Berry Amendment in the last fiscal year.” [Congressional Research Service, updated [1/29/20](#)]

**Fiscal Year 2019: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$984 Billion.** “In fiscal year 2019, the budget deficit totaled \$984 billion—\$205 billion more than the shortfall recorded in 2018. Measured as a share of GDP, the deficit increased to 4.6 percent in 2019, up from 3.8 percent in 2018 and 3.5 percent in 2017.” [Congressional Budget Office, [11/7/19](#)]

### **Crafts Signed A Pledge Committing To “Oppose And Vote Against Any And All Efforts To Increase Taxes”**

**Crafts Signed A Pledge Committing To “Oppose And Vote Against Any And All Efforts To Increase Taxes.”** “Americans for Tax Reform applauds the federal incumbents and candidates in Alabama, Texas, and Maine who have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge ahead of tomorrow’s congressional primary. The Pledge is a written commitment to the American people to oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes. [...] Dale Crafts (ME-02).” [Americans For Tax Reform via States News Service, 7/13/20]

### **Crafts Defended Tax Cuts, Saying They “Bring In More Revenue” That Can Be Used To Reduce The Debt**

**Crafts Defended Tax Cuts, Saying They “Bring In More Revenue” That Can Be Used To Reduce The Debt.** ““You still support the tax cuts even though they raised the deficit?” ‘Well no, actually tax cuts bring in more revenue, it depends what you do with the revenue. Now if you’re going to spend the revenue and not reduce the debt that’s one thing, but it’s a proven fact with Ronald Reagan, Governor Paul LePage, when you reduce taxes you create more revenue and with that revenue you can reduce the debt.’” [Maine Public Radio, 6/24/20]

### **Crafts Supported Cutting Corporate Taxes**

**Crafts Supported Cutting Corporate Taxes.** Crafts answered “Yes” to the question “Do you support lowering corporate taxes as a means of promoting economic growth?” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### **Crafts Supported A Bipartisan Budget That Cut Taxes**

**Crafts Supported Maine's 2011 Tax Cut.** "Dale spoke about voting for the largest tax cuts in Maine history while serving in the Maine House of Representatives in 2011, which removed 70,000 of the lowest income taxpayers from the tax rolls all together." [Dale Crafts for Congress, press release, [10/10/19](#)]

**LePage Signed The Budget Because It Cut Taxes – But Criticized The Budget For Not Cutting Welfare Spending.** "Gov. Paul LePage signed the \$6.1 billion two-year state budget into law on Monday, but immediately blasted lawmakers for only doing 'half the job' and said that he will seek changes in the January session. 'They did cut taxes and they fixed the pension,' LePage said in a brief interview. 'But they did not do their job in welfare. They really fell short; they significantly fell short.' He said he signed the budget because of the tax cuts, but that they are not enough in the long run and that further spending cuts will be needed to make sure the state can recover from the recession." [Kennebec Journal, 6/21/11]

**The Budget Was Bipartisan.** "House Minority Leader Emily Cain, D-Orono, said no one is ever completely happy with a compromise budget, but said the governor got tax cuts, pension reform and welfare reform and should be pleased with the accomplishment. 'The Legislature came to a point of compromise and agreement,' she said. 'More than two-thirds of us thought it was the right thing for the state of Maine, so I would say we did the whole job.'" [Kennebec Journal, 6/21/11]

### **Crafts Was The Chairman Of The Common Sense Caucus, A Conservative Group That Favored Tax Cuts**

**Crafts Was The Chairman Of The Common Sense Caucus, A Conservative Group That Favored Tax Cuts.** "Over on the right, the Common Sense Caucus spent a good chunk of last week rounding up 51 signatures for a letter it planned to deliver to legislative leaders and members of the Appropriations Committee that leaves virtually no room for compromise. 'We're holding on the tax cuts,' vowed Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, who chairs that group, referring to the \$200 million or so in tax reductions woven into the proposed \$6.1 billion biennial state budget. 'That's the one thing that we're really firm on.' It's no idle threat - between now and the fast-approaching June 15 end of the legislative session, the budget must be approved by two-thirds majorities in both chambers of the Legislature. Fifty-one votes is the exact number needed to derail the spending package in the House. Meaning that the Common Sense Caucus, whose membership includes more than a few products of Maine's tea party movement, is choosing this ever-so-delicate moment to draw a deep line in the sand? 'Well, that's the message we want to send, yes,' replied Crafts." [Portland Press Herald, 6/5/11]

### **Ways And Means Committee**

#### **Crafts Said He Wanted To Serve On The "Tax-Writing Committee" To Leverage His Business Experience**

**Crafts Said He Wanted To Serve On The "Tax-Writing Committee" To Leverage His Business Experience.** "Crafts said he would like to serve on the tax-writing committee as a way to leverage his business experience." [Bangor Daily News, 2/6/20]



## Seniors' Issues

### Significant Findings

- ✓ *Crafts supported a scheme to privatize Social Security that was similar to George W. Bush's failed privatization plan that would have put current retirees' benefits at risk and cut benefits for 70% of taxpayers.*
- ✓ *Crafts did not support expanding federal funding to support Social Security and Medicare.*
- ✓ *Crafts was concerned Social Security was "not getting a return on that money" and wanted to make sure funds were "invested properly."*

## Social Security

### **Crafts Supported A Plan To Privatize Social Security Similar To George W. Bush's Failed Privatization Plan That Would Have Put Current Retirees' Benefits At Risk**

#### **Craft Proposed A Plan To Privatize Social Security That Was Similar To The Massively Unpopular Plan George W. Bush Unsuccessfully Pushed In His Second Term ...**

**Crafts Supported Allowing People To Invest A Portion Of Their Social Security Contributions On Their Own.** "One thing we have to do as a nation we're gonna pay our bills, we got to keep our promises to the people that have paid into social security their whole lives, their whole working lives. We have to figure out, it has to be a priority, people have depended on their whole life for their retirement age and we can't take that away from them. Well I have a problem when we keep increasing the age, you know, further because I think that's not keeping the promise. So how do we make it solvent, well we gotta grow the economy. I think President Trump we gotta get him re-elected because his whole business plan of taking on China and trying to get fair trade, we've had lopsided trade forever and we've been ripped off like he said forever. So I think once we get fair trade around the world that he's worked on we're gonna grow this economy, factories are gonna come back and we're gonna create enough revenue to keep our promises. It's gonna take a business mind to put a business plan together to make social security solvent, and I do believe that we ought to have a portion of our Social Security that we paid in, if we want to invest it and get a return on that and grow our Social Security even more." [Maine Public, [7/9/20](#)] (AUDIO)

**During His Second Term, President George W. Bush Unsuccessfully Pushed A "Partial Privatization" Plan That Would Allow People To Invest Part Of Their Social Security Contributions Themselves.** "Following his successful 2004 reelection campaign, President George W. Bush designated fundamental Social Security reform as his top domestic priority. This was anything but an impulsive decision. As early as his 1978 congressional race, he had suggested that the Social Security System could not be sustained unless individuals were allowed to invest the payroll tax themselves. Overriding the doubts of some political advisors, he raised the issue while announcing his first presidential race, declaring that 'We should trust Americans by giving them the option of investing part of their Social Security contributions in private accounts.' [...] He mentioned the issue repeatedly during the 2004 campaign and was able to argue that his reelection represented a mandate to move forward on what he called personal accounts (and his adversaries called partial privatization). Within days after the election, President Bush made it clear that he did not intend to play it safe on Social Security reform and other controversial issues. [...] By early summer the initiative was on life support, with congressional Democrats uniformly opposed and Republicans in disarray. After Hurricane Katrina inundated what remained of the President's support, congressional leaders quietly pulled the plug. By October, even the President had to acknowledge that his effort had failed." [Brookings, [9/21/17](#)]

**68% Of Americans Opposed George W. Bush's Plan To Partially Privatize Social Security.** "Following his successful 2004 reelection campaign, President George W. Bush designated fundamental Social Security reform as his top domestic priority. This was anything but an impulsive decision. As early as his 1978 congressional race, he had suggested that the Social Security System could not be sustained unless individuals were allowed to invest the payroll tax themselves. Overriding the doubts of some political advisors, he raised the issue while announcing his first presidential race, declaring that 'We should trust Americans by giving them the option of investing part of their Social Security contributions in private accounts.' [...] Having invested so much political capital in this issue, President Bush embarked on the first of what proved to be a long series of tours crammed with events at which he pitched his plan to the people. It soon became apparent that it would be a tough sell. Within weeks, observers noticed that the more the President talked about Social Security, the more support for his plan declined. According to the Gallup organization, public disapproval of President Bush's handling of Social Security rose by 16 points from 48 to 64 percent—between his State of the Union address and June." [Brookings, [9/21/17](#)]

---

**... Which Risked Slashing Social Security Benefits For Current Retirees – And Would Reduce Benefits For 70% Of All Taxpayers**

---

**President George W. Bush's Plan To Let Workers Invest Part Of Their Social Security Contributions Would Drain Funds Meant To Be Used For Current Retirees' Benefits, Putting The Benefits Of Current Retirees At Risk.** "President Bush has never spelled out a detailed plan on how he would like to reform Social Security; in fact, his 'plan' seems to shift every couple of weeks. However, his advisors have released several details and general ideas that may ultimately form the basis for his final plan to privatize Social Security, although the final proposal remains unknown. What President Bush has proposed so far would mean massive benefit cuts for America's middle class – possibly with more to come – and huge new government deficits to finance the carving up of Social Security to create privatization accounts. There are two separate issues at stake here: Social Security solvency (bringing into balance Social Security revenue and payments) and the creation of privatization accounts, which would divert a substantial share of payroll taxes away from Social Security. [...] In connection with the President's State of the Union address on February 2, 2005, the White House released some specifics of the president's plan for privatization accounts: **Bush Would Create Private Accounts.** Starting in 2011, all workers could divert a third of their payroll tax, or 4 percent of their earnings, up to \$1,000 per year, into a privatization account. [...] **Private Accounts Would Force Trillions in New Borrowing.** Under Bush's plan, money that was earmarked to pay current beneficiaries would no longer be available, requiring the government to borrow trillions of dollars to allow Social Security to pay for promised benefits. Without this borrowing, benefit cuts to current retirees would have to be made." [Center for American Progress, [5/5/05](#)]

**President George W. Bush's Social Security Privatization Plan Would Cut Benefits For 70% Of All Taxpayers.** "President Bush has never spelled out a detailed plan on how he would like to reform Social Security; in fact, his 'plan' seems to shift every couple of weeks. However, his advisors have released several details and general ideas that may ultimately form the basis for his final plan to privatize Social Security, although the final proposal remains unknown. What President Bush has proposed so far would mean massive benefit cuts for America's middle class – possibly with more to come – and huge new government deficits to finance the carving up of Social Security to create privatization accounts. There are two separate issues at stake here: Social Security solvency (bringing into balance Social Security revenue and payments) and the creation of privatization accounts, which would divert a substantial share of payroll taxes away from Social Security. [...] **Bush Would Address Solvency Solely by Cutting Benefits.** President Bush has ruled out the possibility of payroll tax increases, and has suggested no other increases in funding. The White House has also apparently retracted its support for raising the cap – currently set at \$90,000 – above which earnings are no longer subject to Social Security taxation. [...] **Bush's Benefit Cuts Would Affect 70 Percent of All Taxpayers.** Benefits would be cut for everybody making more than \$20,000 in 2005. For an average wage earner retiring in 2075, the cuts would equal 28 percent. For workers whose wages are 60 percent above the average – currently \$59,000 – the cut would be 25 percent if they retired in 2045 and 42 percent if they retired in 2075. **More Benefit Cuts Down the Road under Bush's Plan.** The president's proposal still requires further massive benefit cuts, since the change in benefits does not cover the full imbalance in Social Security. President Bush's proposal to massively cut middle-class benefits will cover only 57 percent of the projected shortfall. To address the full shortfall, he would have to further cut retirement benefits or cut disability benefits as well." [Center for American Progress, [5/5/05](#)]

## **Crafts Did Not Believe Federal Funding Should Be Expanded To Support Social Security Or Medicare**

### **Crafts Did Not Believe Federal Funding Should Be Expanded To Support Social Security Or Medicare.**

Crafts answered “No” to the question “Do you support expanding federal funding to support entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare?” He then added “However, we must preserve the programs we have in place to keep the promises we have made.” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Crafts Was Concerned That Social Security Was “Not Getting A Return On That Money”**

**Crafts Was Concerned That Social Security Was “Not Getting A Return On That Money” And Wanted To Make Sure Funds Were “Invested Properly.”** “Crafts, 61, said one problem is that Social Security is ‘not getting a return on that money.’ He said part of a ‘solid, solid plan’ that needs to be figured out to address the issues with Social Security is to make sure its funds are ‘invested properly and growing.’” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 7/7/20]

## **Crafts Said The Answer To Fulfilling Social Security Promises Was Re-Electing Trump**

**Crafts Said The Answer To Fulfilling Social Security Promises Was Re-Electing Trump So He Could Get Fair Trade With China, Grow The Economy, And Create Revenue For Social Security.** “One thing we have to do as a nation, we’re gonna pay our bills. We got to keep our promises to the people that have paid into social security their whole lives, their whole working lives. We have to figure out, it has to be a priority, people have depended on their whole life for their retirement age and we can’t take that away from them. Well I have a problem when we keep increasing the age, you know, further because I think that’s not keeping the promise. So how do we make it solvent, we gotta grow the economy. I think President Trump, we gotta get him re-elected because his whole business plan of taking on China and trying to get fair trade, we’ve had lopsided trade forever and we’ve been ripped off, like he said, forever. So I think once we get fair trade around the world that he’s worked on we’re gonna grow this economy, factories are gonna come back and we’re gonna create enough revenue to keep our promises. It’s gonna take a business mind to put a business plan together to make social security solvent, and I do believe that we ought to have a portion of our social security that we paid in, if we want to invest it and get a return on that and grow our social security even more.” [Maine Public, [7/9/20](#)]

## **Crafts Proposed A Family Tax Deduction And “Good Immigration Policies” To Guarantee Future Social Security Benefits**

**Crafts Proposed A Family Tax Deduction And “Good Immigration Policies” To Guarantee Future Social Security Benefits.** In response to the question “How would you guarantee Social Security benefits for future generations?” Crafts said “We need to make having a family affordable with large tax deduction on returns. With family growth and good Immigration policies it would bring more people paying into Social Security. Security reform to make sure the system is not being taken advantage of.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Retirement Benefits**

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide A Minimum Cost-Of-Living Adjustment For Retirement Benefits For Public Employees**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide A Minimum Cost-Of-Living Adjustment For Retirement Benefits For Public Employees.** Crafts voted against LD 86, “An Act To Improve Retirement Security for Retired Public Employees.” “This bill provides a minimum cost-of-living adjustment of 2.55% for benefits received by

retired state employees, teachers, judges and Legislators for fiscal year 2014-15, fiscal year 2015-16 and fiscal year 2016-17 only.” [Maine Legislature, LD86, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

## Low-Income Seniors

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Increase Property Tax Credits For Low-Income Seniors

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Increase Property Tax Credits For Low-Income Seniors.** Crafts voted against LD 1095, “An Act To Enhance the Property Tax Fairness Credit for Maine’s Low-income Seniors and Other Low-income Residents.” “This bill amends the property tax fairness credit for property tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015 in the following ways. 1. For purposes of calculating the benefit base upon which the credit is based, it increases the amount of property taxes paid or rent constituting property taxes paid that may be used in calculating the credit. 2. It increases the percentage of rent paid that may be considered rent constituting property taxes from 15% of the gross rent actually paid to 18% of the gross rent actually paid. 3. It changes the calculation of the tax credit to increase it to 100%, instead of the current 50%, of the amount by which the benefit base exceeds 5%, instead of the current 6%, of the resident’s income. 4. It increases the maximum credit for residents 65 years of age or older to \$2,000 from \$900 and for residents under 65 years of age to \$1,500 from \$600.” [Maine Legislature, LD1095, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Authorize General Fund Bonds To Pay For Energy-Efficient Affordable Homes For Low-Income Maine Seniors

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Authorize General Fund Bonds To Pay For Energy-Efficient Affordable Homes For Low-Income Maine Seniors.** Crafts voted against LD 1205, “An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support the Independence of Maine's Seniors.” “The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$65,000,000, will be used to assist in the provision of energy-efficient affordable homes to low-income Maine seniors. The bulk of the bond proceeds will be used to construct new homes for seniors and to adaptively reuse existing structures to provide homes for seniors. At least one project will be located in each of Maine's 16 counties. Preference will be given to home locations that have access to health care services, other essential goods and services and public transportation. A portion of the bond proceeds will provide for home repair and weatherization of the existing homes of low-income seniors. The bond proceeds will leverage an estimated \$100,000,000 in private and other funds.” [Maine Legislature, LD1205, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Restore Eligibility And Funding For Drug Programs For The Elderly And People With Disabilities

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Restore Eligibility And Funding For Drug Programs For The Elderly And People With Disabilities.** Crafts voted against LD 629, “An Act To Restore Eligibility and Funding for Drug Programs for the Elderly and Disabled.” “In Public Law 2011, chapter 657, Part HH, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services was directed to seek a waiver to reduce income eligibility levels for the Medicare savings program by 10%. The reduction of income eligibility levels was contingent on the grant of the waiver by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; the waiver was granted. This bill instructs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to submit an application to restore income eligibility levels for the Medicare savings program to the levels they were before the waiver was granted and makes the increase contingent upon the approval of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This bill also makes adjustments to appropriations and allocations to reflect the increase in the eligibility levels.” [Maine Legislature, LD629, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

## Early Life

### Education

#### **Crafts Was A High School Football Player And Described Himself As “Full Speed Ahead All The Time”**

##### **Crafts Was A High School Football Player And Described Himself As “Full Speed Ahead All The Time.”**

“On his high school football team, co-captain Dale Crafts did it all: a running back who also played defense and took the field with the special teams as well. ‘My tongue was pretty much hanging out’ by the time a game ended, the 61-year-old congressional candidate recalled recently. But he was the kind of guy who ‘was full speed ahead all the time,’ Crafts said.” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 7/1/20]

### Business

#### **Crafts Said He Learned About Business From His Father And Dabbled In Car Transportation, Home Building, Fishing, Self-Storage, And Real Estate**

**Crafts Said He Learned About Business From His Father And Dabbled In Car Transportation, Home Building, Fishing, Self-Storage, And Real Estate.** “Dale Crafts said he learned about business early on from his father. ‘I always had a little side businesses,’ he said. He got a job at Bath Iron Works for a few years as a young man, but the position ‘kind of tied me down,’ he said, so he left it and began working with his dad and two older brothers. They started transporting cars between Maine and Florida. After his accident, he got into home building, helping to put up spec houses just in time to catch the boom years during Ronald Reagan’s administration. That led to bigger jobs digging foundations and the like for commercial projects. Crafts said he would operate excavators and bulldozers, crawling from his wheelchair and pulling himself up into the seat of the equipment. ‘Some of my determination is kind of off the scales,’ Crafts said. He sold the construction business just before the economy tanked and then got ‘a crazy idea’ somehow of building a modern fishing boat and taking it to Grenada to demonstrate to fishermen there how they could do better with new boats. Those years, he said, taught him a lot about Third World politics and what happens when authorities who want a bribe don’t get one. In short, it didn’t work out well. But he also bought a self-storage business in 1992 that did just fine. He later bought a second location and built a third one in Topsham. All have been successful, Crafts said. Crafts has also flipped houses on the real estate market and tackled other ideas for making money. ‘I’ve never been afraid to step out,’ he said.” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 7/1/20]

## Campaign 2020

### Primary Election

#### Crafts Criticized Ranked Choice Voting, Calling It A “Dog And Pony Show” And A Waste Of Money

##### **Crafts Criticized Ranked Choice Voting, Calling It A “Dog And Pony Show” And A Waste Of Money.**

“Crafts said in a statement that it ‘seems completely ridiculous to me that we would perform a ‘dog and pony show’ to tally the ranked-choice voting results. ‘As a businessman, I understand that you don’t spend money you don’t need on things you can’t afford,’ he said. ‘I understand that liberals love the ranked-choice voting scheme,’ which Maine voters have endorsed at the polls twice, ‘but to spend money on something that doesn’t even matter is offensive to me as a taxpayer.’” [Sun Journal, 7/20/20]

#### Crafts Was Criticized For Hiring A Campaign Consulting Firm Operated By A Registered Agent Of Saudi Arabia

**Crafts Was Criticized For Hiring A Campaign Consulting Firm Operated By A Registered Agent Of Saudi Arabia.** “This weekend, Brakey seized on a report in The Intercept to slam Crafts for hiring a campaign consulting firm operated by a registered agent of Saudi Arabia, a country the former state senator from Auburn has often lambasted for its willingness to wage war in Yemen, kill journalists and cozy up to terrorists. Brakey said Crafts should sever ties to the firm, Eaton River Strategies. He called the Saudi connection ‘a very direct conflict of interest’ for Crafts’ campaign. ‘Enough with the slanderous lies, Eric,’ Crafts responded on Twitter. ‘As your friend, it is extremely disappointing to see you lower yourself to this level.’ The three GOP congressional hopefuls agree on many issues, from guns to taxes, but a rift on foreign policy has been clear for months, with Brakey repeatedly calling for U.S. troops to come home and for the country to cease ‘endless foreign wars.’ Crafts has largely taken a traditional Republican approach to foreign policy.” [Sun Journal, 7/13/20]

**Crafts’ Campaign Called The Criticism A “Desperate Attack At The Last Minute To Tie In A False Narrative” But The Attacks Were Substantiated.** “The Intercept news site on Saturday published an article on a Maine operative who is a registered agent for Saudi Arabia and the owner of a Republican consulting firm that employs former state Rep. Dale Crafts’ campaign manager, the Bangor Daily News reported. One of Crafts’ opponents in Tuesday’s primary, former state Sen. Eric Brakey, called on Crafts to sever ties with the firm and on Twitter questioned whether Crafts ‘will put American interests first’ if elected. Keith Herrick, Crafts’ campaign manager, said ‘this is nothing more than a desperate attack at the last minute to tie in a false narrative.’ Kathie Summers-Grice, the CEO of Eaton River Strategies, is paid \$10,000 per month to advocate for the Saudi Arabian monarchy through a contract with an Iowa firm, according to federal filings. Crafts’ 2020 campaign has paid Eaton River \$35,000 for mail and consulting services, according to filings.” [Portland Press Herald, 7/12/20]

### Endorsements And Support

#### Crafts Said He Entered The Race After Encouragement From Former Governor LePage And State Sen. Jeff Timberlake

**Crafts Said He Entered The Race After Encouragement From Former Governor LePage And State Sen. Jeff Timberlake.** “Dale Crafts, of Lisbon, is a businessman and former Lisbon Town Council member who served four terms in the Maine House from 2008-16. He entered the race after being encouraged by State Sen. Jeff Timberlake (R-Androscoggin) and, two days later, LePage. ‘You’re the guy who can beat Jared Golden,’ Crafts said LePage told him. ‘He’s got nothing against (Adrienne Bennett). He just thinks I’m a better candidate with my experience.’

Crafts, 61, has since been endorsed by more than 50 former and current legislators, sportsmen and veterans.” [Pine Tree Watch via Newstex Blogs, 7/9/20]

---

### **LePage Endorsed Crafts After Never Officially Endorsing In A Major Contested Primary During His Tenure As Governor**

---

**LePage Endorsed Crafts After Never Officially Endorsing In A Major Contested Primary During His Tenure As Governor.** “Former Gov. Paul LePage (R) threw his support behind former state Rep. Dale Crafts (R) in his bid to unseat freshman Rep. Jared Golden (D). LePage also had never endorsed at least officially in a contested primary for a major Maine office during his tenure as governor.” [Hotline, 10/21/19]

---

### **Crafts Was Endorsed By Penobscot County Treasurer John Hiatt After Hiatt’s Withdrawal From The Republican Primary**

---

**Crafts Was Endorsed By Penobscot County Treasurer John Hiatt After Hiatt’s Withdrawal From The Republican Primary.** “After just 17 days on the campaign trail, Penobscot County Treasurer John Hiatt has withdrawn from the Republican primary to unseat Democrat U.S. Rep. Jared Golden in November 2020. Hiatt, a 36-year-old underdog candidate from Bangor who also serves on the Bangor School Committee, set himself apart by previously refusing to embrace President Trump. But on Thursday morning, he announced that he was exiting the race and endorsing one of the three other Republican candidates: former state Rep. Dale Crafts.” [Bangor Daily News, 12/19/19]

## **Legislative Priorities And Promises**

---

### **Legislative Priorities**

---

---

#### **Crafts Said His Top Issues Were The Economy And Health Care And Called Himself A “Free-Market Capitalist”**

---

**Crafts Said His Top Issues Were The Economy And Health Care And Called Himself A “Free-Market Capitalist.”** “Running, Crafts said, was not something he expected to do. But with Timberlake and LePage’s encouragement, and after praying and getting his family’s blessing, Crafts entered the race. ‘I have children and grandchildren (that) I want to have a good future — that’s why I’m doing it,’ he said. ‘I tell people I don’t want to be a politician, I want to be a servant.’ Asked what issues concerned voters the most, Crafts said the economy and healthcare. He said Mainers need more job opportunities — he noted examples in agriculture and the coast’s deep-water ports — to staunch the flow of residents moving away for work. He cited a need to cut the ‘skyrocketing costs’ that can have a ‘devastating’ effect on families. ‘I’m a free-market capitalist,’ he said. ‘When I was a legislator we fought hard to purchase healthcare across state lines (but) couldn’t get it done. I’m really hoping that I can be a part of (a solution).’” [Pine Tree Watch via Newstex Blogs, 7/9/20]

---

#### **Crafts Named His Top Three Priorities As Economic Growth, Affordable Healthcare, And Immigration**

---

**Crafts Named His Top Three Priorities As Economic Growth, Affordable Healthcare, And Immigration.** “Economic Growth - Affordable Healthcare - Secure Our Borders/Immigration.” [Dale Crafts Vote Smart Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

#### **Crafts Said His Legislative Priorities Would Be A Balanced Budget Amendment, A Term Limit Amendment, And Heartbeat Legislation**

---

**Crafts Said His Legislative Priorities Would Be A Balanced Budget Amendment, A Term Limit Amendment, And Heartbeat Legislation.** In response to the question “In priority order, what three areas of legislation do you

propose to author or sponsor if elected?” Crafts said “Balance Budget Amendment. Term limit Amendment. I would support or sponsor life Heartbeat legislation.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Legislative Promises

---

### **Crafts Promised Voters He Would Protect Free Market Capitalism, Shrink The Size Of Government, And Stop The “Never-Ending Liberal Gun Grab”**

---

**Crafts Promised Voters He Would Protect Free Market Capitalism, Shrink The Size Of Government, And Stop The “Never-Ending Liberal Gun Grab.”** “As a Congressman, I will use my business experience, to reduce regulations, protect the free-market and capitalism, and encourage business and job growth. Uphold and protect the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Protect the Sanctity of Human Life, 100%. Shrink the size of Government. Fight to balance the budget and reduce the national debt. Continue the fight as a Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine Board Member, by supporting your right to keep and bear arms and stopping the never-ending liberal gun grab.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

---

### **Crafts Was Known For Proposing A Bill That Allowed People To Keep Weapons In Their Car At Work, Co-Chairing An Informal Prayer Caucus, And Backing Several Bills That Would Have Restricted Maine Abortion Laws**

---

**Crafts Was Known For Proposing A Bill That Allowed People To Keep Weapons In Their Car At Work, Co-Chairing An Informal Prayer Caucus, And Backing Several Bills That Would Have Restricted Maine Abortion Laws.** “After Republicans took control of state government in 2010 behind the election of Gov. Paul LePage, Crafts submitted a bill that prohibited employers—including the state—from barring employees with concealed-firearm permits from keeping those weapons locked in their vehicle. It was signed by LePage. He also co-chaired an informal prayer caucus and backed several bills that would have restricted Maine abortion laws, including one sponsored by Crafts that would have mandated parental notification before underage women have abortions. Crafts, who has used a wheelchair since he was paralyzed from the waist down in a 1983 motorcycle crash, opposed Medicaid expansion, played up some of his similarities to President Donald Trump during his speech. He reminded the audience of his business experience and his support of legislative Republicans’ 2011 tax cut package and Trump-led 2017 tax cuts.” [Bangor Daily News, 10/10/19]

---

### **Crafts Cast Himself As A Trump Ally And Campaigned On Reducing Regulations, Growing Jobs, And Shrinking The Government**

---

**Crafts Cast Himself As A Trump Ally And Campaigned On Reducing Regulations, Growing Jobs, And Shrinking The Government.** “Crafts, who served eight years in the Maine Legislature, cast himself as a new ally for President Donald Trump in Washington. He also had the backing of former Maine Republican Gov. Paul LePage, a vocal Trump supporter. Crafts ran for the nomination against former television reporter — and LePage’s former spokesperson — Adrienne Bennett and former state Sen. Eric Brakey. [...] Crafts campaigned on reducing regulations, growing jobs and shrinking the government. He will run against Democratic Rep. Jared Golden, who was elected in 2018. ‘It is time to unify together as Republicans and Mainers to bring common sense Maine values to Washington,’ Crafts said.” [Associated Press State & Local, 7/15/20]

---

### **Crafts Was Seen As A Safe Conservative Candidate Who Would Reliably Support Trump**

---

**Crafts Was Seen As A Safe Conservative Candidate Who Would Reliably Support Trump.** “‘It’s quite humbling,’ Crafts said late Tuesday. Crafts, a 61-year-old ex-state legislator backed by former Gov. Paul LePage, came across to the GOP rank-and-file as a safe choice who could be counted on to support President Donald Trump and a solidly conservative agenda.” [Sun Journal, 7/14/20]



---

**Crafts Would Be Among The Most Right-Wing Members Of Congress Due To His Views On Abortion, Health Care, And Social Security**

---

**Portland Press Herald: Crafts Would Be Among The Most Right-Wing Members Of Congress Due To His Views On Abortion, Health Care, And Social Security.** “Crafts, who if elected this year would be among the most right wing members of Congress. He opposes abortion in all cases, with no exception for rape or incest, would repeal the Affordable Care Act and favors privatizing Social Security. He just won a primary in which the key issue was who would be the most loyal to Donald Trump.” [Portland Press Herald, 7/19/20]

# Donald Trump

## Impeachment

### Crafts Called Impeachment A “Hoax” Made Up By Democrats, The Deep State, And The FBI

**Crafts Called Impeachment A “Hoax” Made Up By Democrats, The Deep State, And The FBI.** “Crafts called [the impeachment proceedings] ‘a hoax’ made up by Democrats, the so-called Deep State and the FBI.” [Sun Journal, 2/6/20]

### Crafts Called Impeachment A Funding Stream To Push Back Against Trump

**Crafts Called Impeachment A Funding Stream To Push Back Against Trump.** “Crafts said that for Democrats like Golden, impeachment is ‘a funding stream to continue to push back’ against Trump.” [Sun Journal, 12/17/19]

### Crafts Said Liberals Were Neglecting Their Work During The Impeachment Of Trump

**Crafts Said Liberals Were Neglecting Their Work During The Impeachment Of Trump.** “In [Democrats’] view, you are guilty until proven innocent, or innocent until proven Republican,’ [Crafts] said in a Dec. 5 tweet thread. ‘The liberals’ focus on the impeachment of President Trump and neglect their work that our elected officials are expected to do is the real crime.’” [Bangor Daily News, 12/17/19]

### Crafts Supported Lindsay Graham’s Impeachment Transparency Resolution And Opposed Impeaching Donald Trump

**Crafts Supported Lindsay Graham’s Impeachment Transparency Resolution And Didn’t Support Impeaching Donald Trump.** According to Crafts twitter page, Crafts said “I commend Lindsey Graham for bringing forward his impeachment transparency resolution. This political badminton with Donald Trump is not only a personal attack, but one on his pro-economic policies. I urge House Ds to focus on the American people instead of the Election.” [Dale Crafts Twitter, [10/25/19](#)]



**Dale Crafts**  
@DaleCraftsME

I commend [@LindseyGrahamSC](#) for bringing forward his impeachment transparency resolution. This political badminton with [@realDonaldTrump](#) is not only a personal attack, but one on his pro-economic policies. I urge House Ds to focus on the American people instead of the Election.

[Dale Crafts Twitter, [10/25/19](#)]

I commend U.S Senator Lindsey Graham, (@LindseyGrahamSC) for bringing forward his impeachment transparency resolution. While the Democrats want to play political badminton with our President, the American people deserve better. This is not only an attack on President Donald J. Trump (@POTUS), but an attack on his pro-economic, pro-jobs, and pro-growth policies that we all believe in. Alongside Sen. Graham, I urge the House Democrats to provide President Trump with the same due process afforded to all Americans. It is time for the elected House Democrats to focus on the American people instead of winning the next Election.

[Dale Crafts Twitter, [10/25/19](#)]

**The Resolution Argued That House Dems Were “Denying President Trump Basic Fairness And Due Process Accorded Every American.”** “Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, a close ally of President Donald Trump's on Capitol Hill, announced Friday that a resolution he introduced condemning the House impeachment inquiry process now has 50 co-sponsors in the Senate. [...] The resolution is critical of the way House Democrats are conducting the impeachment inquiry and calls on the House to hold a vote to initiate a formal inquiry. It argues that the House is ‘denying President Trump basic fairness and due process accorded every American.’” [CNN, [10/25/19](#)]

## Support For Trump

### Crafts Originally Supported Ted Cruz For President In 2016

**Crafts Originally Supported Ted Cruz For President In 2016.** “Crafts, meanwhile, has a voting record that establishes him as a solid conservative; he supported Ted Cruz in 2016.” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 10/13/19]

### Crafts Likened Himself To Trump, Emphasizing Their Similar Business Backgrounds

**Crafts Likened Himself To Trump, Emphasizing Their Similar Business Backgrounds.** “Crafts, who served in the Maine Legislature for eight years, said he’s the best candidate for the district because he, like Trump, has a background in business. Crafts broke into the real estate industry at 19, more than four decades ago. He said he’s in step with Trump’s principles of reducing regulations, growing jobs and shrinking the government. ‘I think he’s a

patriot for America. I think he wants to get back to what made America great,' Crafts said." [Telegram & Gazette, 7/10/20]

### **Crafts Said During His Campaign Announcement That He Wanted To Partner With Trump**

**Crafts Said During His Campaign Announcement That He Wanted To Partner With Trump.** "Claiming the support of two prominent Republicans — former Gov. Paul LePage and Shawn Moody, last year's GOP gubernatorial candidate — Dale Crafts jumped into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District race Thursday. 'We want to partner with Donald Trump,' Crafts said after his announcement before a crowd of about 60 people in the old school gym at the MTM Community Center." [Kennebec Journal, 10/11/19]

## **GOP Support**

### **Crafts' Family Had "Deep Ties" To The Evangelical Right In Maine**

**Crafts' Family Had "Deep Ties" To The Evangelical Right In Maine.** "Crafts' family has deep ties to the evangelical right. His cousin, former Maine Senate Majority Leader Garrett Mason, was the runner-up in the 2018 gubernatorial primary last year. Mason's mother, Gina, won the Lisbon seat after Crafts. After she died suddenly in 2017, her husband, Rick, replaced her by winning a special election." [Bangor Daily News, 10/10/19]

### **Crafts Supported Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court Confirmation**

**Crafts Supported Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court Confirmation.** "The confirmation of Justice Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court has exposed the level to which some people in this society will stoop to attack someone with whom they disagree. Honor is rarely seen in these types of tribal wars, which is when true character comes to light. Unlike her counterparts, Sen. Susan Collins took a bipartisan approach to the situation, not letting party lines obstruct the truth of the situation. Through the hearings, tensions were high as it came down to a few individual votes on whether Kavanaugh would be confirmed. Pressure from the media did not make that time any easier, as facts and feelings were muddled. It was up to individual senators to reason through the information and determine the course they would take. Today, I am proud to be a Mainer. Sen. Collins was a strong proponent for hearing both sides, evaluating the testimonies and coming to a decision. Her firm defense of due process and rule of law made the state of Maine proud. It is reassuring to know that Maine has a politician who stands for justice." [Dale Crafts for Sun Journal, 10/18/18]

**Crafts Called Kavanaugh "A Brilliant Legal Mind" And "A Good And Kind Man" With "Love Of Country."** "Who is supporting Brett Kavanaugh, nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court? Democrats, Republicans, conservatives — even some liberals. Former clerks who worked for Kavanaugh all share similar descriptions of him, but they don't all share similar political beliefs. The themes that are consistent in their descriptions? Brilliant legal mind, love of country, a good and kind man. Those are the traits needed in a justice of the Supreme Court. Those are also the traits that Sen. Susan Collins should have no problem supporting." [Dale Crafts for Sun Journal, 8/22/18]

## Abortion and Family Planning Issues

### Crafts Was Anti-Choice

#### Crafts Believed Life Deserved Legal Protection From Conception Until Natural Death

**Crafts Believed Life Deserved Legal Protection From Conception Until Natural Death.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in reference to the statement that “Human life begins at conception and deserves legal protection at every stage until natural death.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### Crafts Supported The Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

**Crafts Supported The Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in reference to the statement that “I support the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which requires health care providers to provide life-saving treatment for infants who survive an attempted abortion.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### Crafts: “I’m Pro-life With Out Exception. God Chooses Life Not Humans”

**Crafts: “I’m Pro-life With Out Exception. God Chooses Life Not Humans.”** In response to the question “Under what circumstances should abortion be allowed?” Crafts wrote “I’m Pro-life with out exception. God chooses life not humans.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### Crafts Sponsored Legislation That Required A Minor To Obtain Parental Consent Before An Abortion

**Crafts Sponsored Legislation That Required A Minor To Obtain Parental Consent Before An Abortion.** “LD 1457, ‘An Act to Strengthen the Consent Laws for Abortions Performed on Minors and Incapacitated Persons.’ This bill, sponsored by Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, ‘repeals the current law concerning consent for a minor’s abortion, and enhances safeguards to ensure parental consent is in place prior to a minor receiving an abortion.’ This change is necessary because, the way Maine law stands now, almost any unrelated adult - including the doctor who will profit from the abortion - can give consent to have a girl’s baby aborted without notifying the parents who are responsible for her welfare.” [Portland Press Herald, 4/29/11]

**Crafts’ Bill Required Notarized Written Consent By A Parent Or Guardian, Although Consent Could Be Given In Certain Circumstances By A Brother, Sister, Step-Parent, Or Grandparent.** “However, the bill does not give the small minority of abusive or uninvolved parents unlimited say on the issue, something that opponents of restoring parental rights often raise as a scare tactic. Instead, as the bill’s summary states, ‘This bill requires the notarized written consent of a parent or legal guardian before an abortion may be performed on a (unemancipated) minor or an incapacitated person. Consent may be given in certain circumstances by a brother or sister who is at least 21 years of age or by a stepparent or a grandparent. ‘Consent is not required in a medical emergency.’ [Portland Press Herald, 4/29/11]

**Crafts’ Bill Allowed The Probate Court Or District Court To Issue Orders If The Petitioner Was Both Sufficiently Mature And Well-Informed And If There Was Physical Or Sexual Abuse Or Neglect By Her Parents Or Her Guardian.** “Probate Court or District Court may issue an order for the purpose of consenting to the abortion in two circumstances ... if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the petitioner is both sufficiently mature and well-informed to decide whether to have an abortion (or) ... that there is a pattern of physical or sexual abuse or neglect of the petitioner by one or both of her parents or her guardian, or that notification of a parent or guardian is not in the best interests of the petitioner.’ This bill empowers responsible

parenting, nothing more nor less - and helps limit the power of the state in an area in which its interests are less vital than those of the typical family.” [Portland Press Herald, 4/29/11]

**Crafts: “I Have To Give Written Permission For My Son To Go Snow Skiing, I Can't Imagine Finding Out After The Fact That My Teenage Daughter Had An Abortion.”** “Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, just wants to make sure parents are notified when their underage daughters seek abortions. ‘I have to give written permission for my son to go snow skiing,’ the second-term lawmaker said. ‘I can't imagine finding out after the fact that my teenage daughter had an abortion.’ Crafts said he feels certain that most Mainers do not know it is legal for a minor female to get an abortion without her parents' knowledge. [Bangor Daily News, 2/16/11]

**Crafts’ Bill That Required Parental Consent Did Not Pass.** “Crafts, who sponsored L.D. 1457, offered a heartfelt case for the bill, which would require parental consent for girls younger than 18 to have abortions. ‘Please don't disenfranchise the dad that loves his children,’ he said. But opponents said Maine's current law - which requires minors to get consent from adults, but not necessarily their parents - is working well. It allows a minor who cannot or chooses not to get consent from her parents to do so through a trusted family member, a judge or an approved counselor. The House voted 80-63 against the measure. [Portland Press Herald, 6/8/11]

## Planned Parenthood Funding

### Crafts Believed Abortion Providers, Including Planned Parenthood, Should Not Receive Any Taxpayer Money

**Crafts Believed Abortion Providers, Including Planned Parenthood, Should Not Receive Any Taxpayer Money.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in reference to the statement that “Abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood, should not receive taxpayer funds or grants from federal, state, or local governments.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Family Research Council Endorsement

### Crafts Said He Was Endorsed By The Family Research Council

**Crafts Said He Was Endorsed By The Family Research Council.** “I am 100% pro-life and have earned the endorsement of the Family Research Council” [Dale Crafts Vote Smart Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### The Family Research Council Was Infamously Anti-Science And Anti-LGBTQ

**The Family Research Council Was Infamously Anti-Science And Anti-LGBTQ.** “The FRC often makes false claims about the LGBTQ community based on discredited research and junk science. The intention is to denigrate LGBTQ people as the organization battles against same-sex marriage, hate crime laws, anti-bullying programs and the repeal of the military’s ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ policy.” [Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

## Budget Issues

### Federal Spending

#### Crafts Called Himself A “Fiscal Hawk” Who Would Do Everything To Block Government Spending

**Crafts Called Himself A “Fiscal Hawk” Who Would Do Everything To Block Government Spending.** “Crafts called himself ‘a fiscal hawk’ who would do what he could to block government spending and hold down the soaring national debt.” [Sun Journal, 7/10/20]

#### Crafts Said He Did Not Support Federal Spending As A Means Of Promoting Economic Growth

**Crafts Said He Did Not Support Federal Spending As A Means Of Promoting Economic Growth.** Crafts answered “No” to the question “Do you support lowering corporate taxes as a means of promoting economic growth?” [Dale Crafts Vote Smart Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### Balanced Budget Amendment

#### Crafts Said He Would Vote For A Balanced Budget Amendment

**Crafts Said He Would Vote For A Balanced Budget Amendment.** In response to the question “What government spending would you reduce in order to balance the budget?” Crafts said “I would vote for a balance budget amendment. We don’t have revenue problem, we have a spending problem. Cut wasteful spending.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### Safety Net Spending

#### Crafts Op-Ed: “Maine Is The Second-Biggest Welfare State In The Nation”

**Crafts Op-Ed: “Maine Is The Second-Biggest Welfare State In The Nation. Let That Sink In.”** “Maine is the second-biggest welfare state in the nation. Let that sink in. This state ranks third for the percentage of households on TANF cash welfare, second for food stamps, second for food stamp error rate, and third for Medicaid enrollment. Medicaid has doubled as a share of Maine's budget during the past 15 years and the Department of Health and Human Services now consumes almost half the budget. Overall, 30.5 percent of the budget is spent on welfare.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

#### Crafts Op-Ed: “Democrats Gave Welfare Recipients The All-Clear To Buy Alcohol And Tobacco With Taxpayers' Dollars”

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: “Democrats Gave Welfare Recipients The All-Clear To Buy Alcohol And Tobacco With Taxpayers' Dollars.”** “Maine is the second-biggest welfare state in the nation. This state ranks third for the percentage of households on TANF cash welfare, second for food stamps, second for food stamp error rate, and third for Medicaid enrollment. Medicaid has doubled as a share of Maine's budget during the past 15 years and the Department of Health and Human Services now consumes almost half the budget. Overall, 30.5 percent of the budget is spent on welfare.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

**Crafts Op-Ed: “It Is Economically And Morally Wrong To Turn Our Safety Net Into A Comfy Hammock.”** “It is economically and morally wrong to turn our safety net into a comfy hammock. There are reasons to be optimistic about Maine's future, however. Maine people have shown in the past that they want jobs and opportunity,



not welfare and dependency. Together, with a loud enough voice, we can build a better, more prosperous Maine. Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, and Rep. Jeff Timberlake, R-Turner, are small business owners serving in the Maine House of Representatives.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: Crafts Claimed Politicians Resorted To Raiding Oil Cleanup And Disaster Relief Funds To Offset The Budget Because Of Welfare**

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: Crafts Claimed Politicians Resorted To Raiding Oil Cleanup And Disaster Relief Funds To Offset The Budget Because Of Welfare.** “It’s gotten so bad that politicians through the years have resorted to raiding oil cleanup and disaster relief funds just to plug the ever-growing, welfare-induced leaks in the budget, and those who need help the most are relegated to wait lists.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: Crafts Claimed Maine’s Welfare Enrollment Had Increased, Blaming Democrats Because Of Their “Near-Monopoly On Maine Politics Since The 1970s”**

---

**Crafts Claimed Maine’s Welfare Enrollment Has Increased, Blaming Democrats Because Of Their “Near-Monopoly On Maine Politics Since The 1970s.”** “Maine’s welfare enrollment has increased through good economic times and bad, and it can’t be blamed on the high average age of Maine people -- all MaineCare non-categorical enrollees are under the age of 65. It is simply a function of liberal politicians run amok. Democrats have had a near-monopoly on Maine politics since the 1970s, and their policies are about as appropriate in today’s world as a leisure suit.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: “One Poll Revealed That 63 Percent Of Us Believe The State Doesn’t Do Enough To Encourage Work Among Welfare Recipients”**

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: “One Poll Revealed That 63 Percent Of Us Believe The State Doesn’t Do Enough To Encourage Work Among Welfare Recipients.”** While the rest of the country has streamlined its welfare programs, Maine has stuck stubbornly by a welfare status quo that rewards unemployment and invites abuse. Maine people see the need for reform. One poll revealed that 63 percent of us believe the state doesn’t do enough to encourage work among welfare recipients. When Democrats this year said they would only pay off our \$500 million welfare debt to Maine hospitals if Republicans agreed to pass a massive expansion of the very program that created it, 70 percent of Mainers said the hospitals should be paid with no strings attached and only 15 percent agreed with the Democrats’ tactic.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: Crafts Used A NBC/Wall Street Journal Poll That Asked What Factors Are Continuing Poverty To Argue His Point That “Too Much Welfare That Prevents Initiative”**

---

**Crafts Used A NBC/Wall Street Journal Poll That Asked What Factors Are Continuing Poverty To Argue His Point, And Claimed The Top Choice Was “Too Much Welfare That Prevents Initiative.”** “Even liberal Maine activist and donor Roxanne Quimby went so far as to call Maine ‘a welfare state.’ Nationally, in a June NBC/Wall Street Journal poll that asked respondents to choose the greatest of eight factors that are “most responsible for the continuing problem of poverty,” respondents’ number one choice was ‘too much welfare that prevents initiative.’ A distant sixth was ‘lack of government funding.’” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: “In 2011-2012 When Republicans Controlled Maine Government, We Enacted Meaningful Welfare Reforms”**

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: “In 2011-2012 When Republicans Controlled Maine Government, We Enacted Meaningful Welfare Reforms.”** “Fortunately, in 2011-2012 when Republicans controlled Maine government, we enacted meaningful welfare reforms. But despite the clear need to bring Maine’s welfare system within reason, Democrats, back in the majority this year, fought tooth-and-nail to stop further welfare reforms and roll back the common sense improvements made by the previous Legislature.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: “Most Prosperous States Have Small Welfare Systems”**

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: “Most Prosperous States Have Small Welfare Systems.”** “The most prosperous states have small welfare systems because they see the connection between welfare dependence, budgets and jobs. Large welfare programs burden state budgets, crowding out funding for economic drivers like infrastructure improvement and job training while increasing the tax burden on workers and businesses.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: “[Democrats] Also Create A Culture Of Dependency”**

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: “[Democrats] Also Create A Culture Of Dependency.”** “They also create a culture of dependency. It is economically and morally wrong to turn our safety net into a comfy hammock.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: Crafts Opposed Democrats Making Junk Food Ineligible For Food Stamp Purchases**

---

**Crafts Op-Ed: Crafts Opposed Democrats Making Junk Food Ineligible For Food Stamp Purchases.** “Democrats proceeded to kill welfare reform proposals that even had support within their own party -- bills that would have made junk food ineligible for food stamp purchases and created a study group to eliminate those oddities in the welfare system that make it more profitable for people to collect government benefits than take a job.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**Crafts Supported Preventing Serious, Convicted Drug Felons From Receiving Cash Welfare**

---

**Crafts Supported Preventing Serious, Convicted Drug Felons From Receiving Cash Welfare.** “While Democrats gave welfare recipients the all-clear to buy alcohol and tobacco with taxpayers' dollars, they wagged their finger and gave a stern ‘no’ to anyone seeking to buy a drink with their own money in a licensed cigar lounge. They even killed a bill that would have prevented serious, convicted drug felons from receiving cash welfare.” [Sun Journal, Dale Crafts and Jeff Timberlake, 8/11/13]

---

**State & Local Budget**

---

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bipartisan Effort That Restored Property Tax Relief Programs, Increased Education Funding And Prevented A Government Shutdown**

---

---

**Crafts Voted Against Overriding LePage’s Veto Of the State Budget**

---

**Crafts Voted Against Overriding LePage’s Veto Of the State Budget.** “The Maine House and Senate voted Wednesday to override Republican Gov. Paul LePage's veto of the state budget for the next two years, avoiding a state government shutdown and temporarily raising sales, meals and lodging taxes. [...] Maine House No votes \* Crafts, Dale, R-Lisbon.” [Sun Journal, 6/26/13]

---

**The Vote Was Bipartisan**

---

**Sun Journal: “Five GOP Senators And 23 House Republicans Joined All Democratic Senators And Most House Democrats In Voting June 13 To Enact The Budget.”** “The biennial budget, because it was passed so late in the legislative session and is considered an emergency measure, required a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate. The enactment votes barely met that threshold, 102-43 in the House and 25-10 in the Senate. Five GOP senators and 23 House Republicans joined all Democratic senators and most House Democrats in voting June 13 to enact the budget.” [Sun Journal, 6/26/13]

---

## **The Budget Restored Some Property Relief Programs And Increased Funding For Schools, But Included A Sales, Meals And Lodging Tax Hike**

---

**The Budget Avoided Nearly 65 Percent Of The Revenue Sharing Cuts And Restored Some Of The Property Tax Relief Programs And Increased Funding For Schools.** “A unanimous coalition of lawmakers on the Appropriations Committee disagreed and wrote a budget package that avoids nearly 65 percent of the revenue sharing cuts and restores some of the property tax relief programs. The lawmakers also introduced a \$30 million hike in spending on public schools and funds to restore merit and longevity pay for state workers who have had their salaries frozen for more than four years.” [Sun Journal, 6/26/13]

**The Budget Also Included A Sales, Meals And Lodging Tax Hike.** “Most Republicans, including LePage, agreed that the original budget document contained many provisions that they didn't like, but the real conflict came with the committee's final decisions, which included temporarily raising the sales tax from 5 percent to 5.5 percent and the meals and lodging tax from 7 percent to 8 percent. LePage immediately began talking about a veto, which he followed through with on Monday.” [Sun Journal, 6/26/13]

---

## **The Vote Prevented A Government Shutdown**

---

**Democrats And Republicans Voted To Override Governor LePage's Veto Of The Budget - Many Cited The Threat Of A State Government Shutdown As Their Motivation.** “He blasted Democrats and Republicans whom he said had created a ‘country club’ of the State House and again disputed the notion that his budget, which cut about \$400 million in state revenue-sharing with municipalities, would automatically result in property-tax increases. [...] The House voted 114-34 just after noon Wednesday. The Senate followed with a 26-9 vote. Both tallies exceeded the two-thirds threshold required by law to override the veto and enact a two-year budget, which will take effect on July 1. [...] Democrats, Republicans and independents who originally opposed the budget voting to override the veto. Many cited the threat of a state government shutdown as their motivation.” [Sun Journal, 6/26/13]

---

## **Tensions Began When LePage Proposed A Budget That Zeroed Out Funding For The Four-Decade-Old Municipal Revenue Sharing Program For Two Years And Cut Back Property Tax Relief Programs**

---

**Tensions Began When LePage Proposed A Budget That Zeroed Out Funding For The Four-Decade-Old Municipal Revenue Sharing Program For Two Years And Cut Back Property Tax Relief Programs.** “Tension began building over the biennial budget soon after LePage proposed it in January. Maine municipalities, along with numerous legislators, immediately singled out LePage's proposal to zero out funding for the four-decade-old municipal revenue sharing program for two years and his bids to cut back property tax relief programs as the major battleground. Together, those proposals would have saved some \$275 million over the biennium, according to LePage.” [Sun Journal, 6/26/13]

## **Crafts Opposed A Lisbon Budget That Funded A School Resource Officer, And Foreign Language, Art, And Sports Programs**

**Crafts Opposed Revising The Lisbon Budget That Restored Programs That Were Cut Previously.** “In a special meeting Tuesday, the Town Council agreed to a revised \$14.57 million budget that restores programs that were cut earlier. [...] Councilors voted 4-2, with Dale Crafts and Gina Mason opposed, to add the \$180,000 to the budget and a total spending plan of \$14,569,910. [...] If the budget is rejected, the committee will develop a new one and send it to referendum again.” [Sun Journal, 5/15/08]

**The Budget Funded A School Resource Officer, And Foreign Language, Art, And Sports Programs.** “At a meeting after the hearing, councilors asked the School Committee to go through the budget again and find up to \$180,000 to pay for a school resource officer, and foreign language, art and sports programs.” [Sun Journal, 5/15/08]

---

## **The Budget Cut A Staff Day, Field Trips, And Funding For Students To Take Advance Placement Exams**

---

**For The Budget, The Committee Had To Cut A Staff Day, Field Trips, And Funding For Students To Take Advance Placement Exams.** “The committee was able to come up with \$160,000 by cutting a professional staff day, returning a student in an out-of-district placement to the local school system, eliminating a School Committee trip to a national conference, cutting field trips and charging students for advance placement exams.” [Sun Journal, 5/15/08]

## **2012: Crafts Opposed The State Budget Because Of Proposed 1 Percent Across-The-Board Cuts**

**2012: Crafts Opposed The State Budget.** “Conservative Republicans continue to question the state budget that is expected to come up for votes today in the House, raising the possibility that it won't get the two-thirds support needed to pass. A straw poll of members of a conservative caucus showed more than 30 Republicans indicated they could not vote for the budget as written, said caucus member Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon. ‘We're all just shaking our heads, going, ‘What a mess to try to resolve,’ he said. In particular, the conservatives don't want to vote to continue a tax on paid insurance claims that's part of Dirigo Health.” [Kennebec Journal, 2/15/12]

**Crafts Opposed 1 Percent Across-The-Board Cuts Because It Was “Not Good Government.”** “The tax was scheduled to be reduced to 1.64 percent, but the Legislature's Appropriations Committee has unanimously recommended continuing it at 1.87 percent to provide nearly \$5 million in funding. Another sticking point for conservatives is that several members don't like the proposed 1 percent across-the-board cuts. ‘I think that's bad legislation,’ Crafts said. ‘You have to look at each department individually. To just do 1 percent across the board is not good government. I'm afraid we're more concerned about paying the bills than fixing things.’ In his weekend radio address, Gov. Paul LePage expressed similar sentiments about the budget endorsed by the Appropriations Committee.” [Kennebec Journal, 2/15/12]

## Campaign Finance and Election Law Issues

### Electoral College

#### Crafts Disagreed That The Electoral College Should Be Abolished

**Crafts Disagreed That The Electoral College Should Be Abolished.** Crafts chose the answer “Strongly Disagree” in response to the statement that “The Electoral College should be abolished.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### Term Limits

#### Crafts Said He Supported The Idea Of Term Limits Because He Believed “In Public Service And Not Political Careers”

**Crafts Said He Supported The Idea Of Term Limits Because He Believed “In Public Service And Not Political Careers.”** “The three Republicans vying for the opportunity to take on U.S. Rep. Jared Golden, a Lewiston Democrat, have each endorsed term limits. Two of them, Adrienne Bennett of Bangor and Eric Brakey of Auburn, recently signed a pledge to stick to no more than three terms in the House. Another, Dale Crafts of Lisbon, said he also supports the idea. What it comes down to, Crafts said, is that ‘I believe in public service and not political careers.’” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 12/21/19]

### Ranked Choice Voting

#### Crafts Offered A Campaign Sign To Voters In Exchange For Their Signature On A Petition To Repeal Ranked Choice Voting

**Crafts Offered A Campaign Sign To Voters In Exchange For Their Signature On A Petition To Repeal Ranked Choice Voting.** “Now, we’ve got an offer that you can’t refuse, the offer is this. Tomorrow if you come over here to the Red Maple Inn and you want to come here and sign to repeal ranked choice voting you get a Trump Pence sign but the other good part of it is we even have a bonus for you if you come up here. You get a Dale Crafts sign also to put on your lawn.” [Facebook, [6/4/20](#)]

### Campaign Finance

#### Crafts Believed Indirect Campaign Contributions From Corporations And Unions Should Not Be Regulated.

**Crafts Believed Indirect Campaign Contributions From Corporations And Unions Should Not Be Regulated.** Crafts answered “No” to the question “Do you support the regulation of indirect campaign contributions from corporations and unions?” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Crime and Public Safety Issues

### Marijuana Legalization

#### Crafts Disagreed With Marijuana Legalization

**Crafts Disagreed With Marijuana Legalization.** Crafts chose “Disagree” in response to the statement “I support legalization of recreational marijuana.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### Police Brutality

#### Crafts Said It Was “Ludicrous” To Defund The Police, Calling Instead For Reform To Weed Out “Bad Apples”

**Crafts Said It Was “Ludicrous” To Defund The Police, Calling Instead For Reform To Weed Out “Bad Apples.”** “Crafts expressed sympathy for George Floyd, a black man murdered by police in Minnesota last month, saying that ‘what took place is very sad.’ He said it is ludicrous to seek to defund the police, as some demonstrators have called for, but some reform is needed to weed out ‘bad apples.’” [Sun Journal, 6/11/20]

### Reparations

#### Crafts Said He Supported Race-Based Reparations

**Crafts Said He Supported Race-Based Reparations.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in response to the statement “Reparations should be given to people on the basis of race.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Economy and Jobs Issues

### Free-Market Capitalism

#### **Crafts Said That Anyone Who Criticized Free Market Capitalism “Must Not Understand The History Of This Nation And Why It Made It So Great”**

**Crafts Said That Anyone Who Criticized Free Market Capitalism “Must Not Understand The History Of This Nation And Why It Made It So Great.”** “A free market capitalist system that changed the world, why would anybody in this country want anything different. What is it they’ve been taught, I don’t think they’ve been taught the truth. They must not understand the history of this nation and why it made it so great.” [Facebook, [7/2/20](#)]

#### **Crafts Agreed That Free Enterprise And Private Property Were Essential To A Productive Economic System**

**Crafts Agreed That Free Enterprise And Private Property Were Essential To A Productive Economic System.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in response to the statement that “Free enterprise and the right to private property are essential elements of a productive economic system.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### Livable Incomes

#### **Crafts Did Not Think The Government Had Any Responsibility To Ensure Livable Incomes**

**Crafts Did Not Think The Government Had Any Responsibility To Ensure Livable Incomes.** Crafts chose “Strongly Disagree” in response to the statement “It is the government’s responsibility to ensure everyone has a livable income.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Education Issues

### Higher Education

#### Student Loan Debt

---

#### **Crafts Said “People Ought To Be Responsible For Their Own Decisions” In Reference To Those Burdened With Extreme Student Loan Debt**

---

**Crafts Said “People Ought To Be Responsible For Their Own Decisions” In Reference To Those Burdened With Extreme Student Loan Debt.** “Neither Crafts nor Bennett expressed any sympathy for those burdened with high student debt. ‘People ought to be responsible for their own decisions,’ Crafts said. He said more young people ought to go into the trades instead of heading to college.” [Sun Journal, 6/11/20]

---

#### **Crafts Thought Taxpayers Should Never Help Pay Off Existing Student Loans**

---

**Crafts Thought Taxpayers Should Never Help Pay Off Existing Student Loans.** In response to the question “Under what circumstances should taxpayers help pay off existing student loans?” Crafts said “I believe anyone that agree to taken a loan agreement on a home, car or student loan has the obligation and responsibility to pay the loan in full.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### Public College

---

#### **Crafts Disagreed With The Suggestion Of Guaranteed Taxpayer-Funded Public Education Through College**

---

**Crafts Disagreed With The Suggestion Of Guaranteed Taxpayer-Funded Public Education Through College.** Crafts chose “Strongly Disagree” in response to the statement that “Taxpayer-funded public education should be guaranteed through college.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### Tax Credits

---

#### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Expand Maine’s Educational Opportunity Tax Credit**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Expand Maine’s Educational Opportunity Tax Credit.** Crafts voted against LD 1657, “An Act To Simplify and Expand the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit.” “This bill, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, allows a qualified individual who earned a bachelor's or associate degree from an accredited Maine community college, college or university after December 31, 2007 but before January 1, 2016 to be eligible for the educational opportunity tax credit regardless of the number of transfer credits earned at a non-Maine community college, college or university. Under current law, an individual who earned more than 30 credit hours from a non-Maine community college, college or university prior to 2016 does not qualify for the credit. The bill, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, allows a resident of Maine who is employed at least part time in a position on a vessel at sea to qualify for the educational opportunity tax credit. Under current law, an individual, other than an individual deployed for military service, does not qualify for the credit if the individual works outside Maine for more than 3 months. The bill, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, encourages employers to pay student loan payments by expanding the employer credit to include graduate degrees earned by qualified employees and by removing the principal cap relative to qualified employees.” [Maine Legislature, LD1657, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

---

#### **Crafts Supported An Income Tax Credit For Parents Sending Their Kids To Private And Parochial Schools**

---



**Crafts Supported An Income Tax Credit For Parents Sending Their Kids To Private And Parochial Schools.** “The Maine House sent mixed messages Tuesday about its position on the use of tax money to help support private and parochial schools. Legislators voted to support a bill that would provide an income tax credit of as much as \$1,000 to parents who send their children to private or religious schools. The proposal, L.D. 1092, was approved 75-67 despite a Senate vote against it and a projected cost of about \$25 million in lost revenue over the next two years. [...] Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, said during the debate on Volk's bill that he was amazed to see ‘so much opposition to religion.’ ‘In the beginning of this great country ... the main textbook of the public school was the Bible,’ he said. ‘Why anybody would oppose people having private schools that might teach the Ten Commandments or might teach fear of God and doing right and not lying and being a productive person in society really boggles my mind.’ [Portland Press Herald, 6/1/11]

## Technical Education

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Amend Maine’s Competitive Skills Scholarship Program To Allow For Participation In Technical Education Programs**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Amend Maine’s Competitive Skills Scholarship Program To Allow For Participation In Technical Education Programs.** Crafts voted against LD 856, “An Act To Amend the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program To Allow for Participation in Early College and Career and Technical Education Programs.” “This bill expands the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program to include participants who are under 18 years of age if they are full-time secondary students at a public secondary school and enrolled in a career and technical education program at a career and technical education center or a career and technical education region and: 1. Do not have a marketable postsecondary degree; 2. Have income less than 200% of the federal poverty level; and 3. Are applying for education or training for a job in an approved industry. The bill also directs the Commissioner of Labor to transfer funds from the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund to cover postsecondary education expenses for secondary students in a dual enrollment career and technical education program established pursuant to statute, also known as a "Bridge Year Program." The provisions in the bill are repealed on January 1, 2021.” [Maine Legislature, LD856, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

## Elementary Education

### Religion In Public School

#### **Crafts Said He Wholeheartedly Supported Returning Prayer To Public Schools**

**Crafts Said He Wholeheartedly Supported Returning Prayer To Public Schools.** “Yes I think the position is that our founders intended that its government’s job to stay out of the church’s business. I wholeheartedly believe that, I think that prayer is always, it’s been a big part of my life, part of my success is because of prayer. I think that prayer helps anybody, anybody that’s having prayer is looking for help or the positive thoughts of prayer. It is beneficial for public schools and I wholeheartedly support returning public prayer to schools.” [Maine Public Radio, [6/24/20](#)]

## Federal Education Standards

### **Crafts Supported Requiring States To Adopt Federal Education Standards**

**Crafts Supported Requiring States To Adopt Federal Education Standards.** Crafts responded “Yes” to the question “Do you support requiring states to adopt federal education standards?” [Dale Crafts Vote Smart Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Nutrition And Hunger

---

## **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Support And Expand School Nutrition Programs**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Support And Expand School Nutrition Programs.** Crafts voted against LD 1285, “An Act To Support School Nutrition.” “This bill requires the Department of Education to develop and support local food training programs for public school food service personnel and facilitate the use of local food hubs to expand the use of local foods in schools. It increases the limit on the amount that the State matches for the acquisition of local food by a school administrative unit if the unit sends a food service employee for training in the acquisition and use of local foods. It directs the department to develop and post a position description for school food service program personnel on its publicly accessible website and to develop an annual competitive skill-oriented school food service recognition emphasizing creative and effective use of local foods. It directs the Department of Education to apply for federal grant funding for the implementation of the local foods training program and the increased state contribution for the Local Produce Fund and it makes implementation contingent on receipt of funding. It also allows the department to accept grant funding from hospitals and other sources.” [Maine Legislature, LD1285, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

---

## **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Support School Nutrition And The Local Foods Economy**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Support School Nutrition And The Local Foods Economy.** Crafts voted against LD 1431, “An Act To Support School Nutrition and Expand the Local Foods Economy.” “This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Department of Education to administer programs to support the expansion and coordination of the use of fresh local foods in public school food service programs. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is directed to provide grants in 2 phases for the identification of local food suppliers and the establishment of local food hubs to connect local food producers with public school food service programs and facilitate the operation of local food programs in schools. The bill also directs the Department of Education to develop and support local food training programs for public school food service personnel and facilitate the use of local food hubs to expand the use of local foods in schools. The bill also provides a bond issue in the amount of \$12,000,000 to be used to develop up to 10 local food hubs.” [Maine Legislature, LD1431, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

---

## **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require Schools With More Than 50% Low-Income Students To Operate A Federal Summer Food Service Program**

---

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require Schools With More Than 50% Low-Income Students To Operate A Federal Summer Food Service Program.** Crafts voted against LD 1353, “An Act To Further Reduce Student Hunger.” “This bill requires a school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year to operate a federal summer food service program in the area served by that public school during the following summer vacation if that public school operates a summer educational or recreational program. The school administrative unit may collaborate with a service institution such as a local government, higher education institution or summer camp to operate the summer food service program. It also requires such a school administrative unit that does not operate a summer educational or recreational program to collaborate with a service institution to operate a federal summer food service program if there is a service institution that provides food service to children in the summer in the area served by the public school. A school administrative unit required to operate a federal summer food service program may choose not to operate such a program if it determines by a vote of the governing body of the school administrative unit after notice and a public hearing that operating such a program would be financially or logistically impracticable. [Maine Legislature, LD1353, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

---

## **Crafts Opposed LePage’s School Funding Formula That Helped Struggling Mill Towns**

---

**Crafts Opposed Changing Maines’s School Funding To Help Struggling Mill Towns.** “A last-minute bill to change Maine’s school funding formula to help struggling mill towns was amended amid confusion and urban- rural divide by the House of Representatives on Wednesday night. The measure passed 110 - 39. [...] Rep. Dale J. Crafts (R-Lisbon) N[ay].” [Sun Journal, 4/14/16]

**The Change Was Proposed By Gov. LePage And Was In Reponse To Paper Mill Closures.** “It was proposed by Gov. Paul LePage is a response to recent paper mill closures. Last month, the mill in Madison announced that it will shut down in May, laying off 214 workers.” [Sun Journal, 4/14/16]

**LePage’s Bill Triggered Emergency Funding To Towns With Losses Of 4.5% Valuation Attributable To One Employer.** “The collaborative effort aims to help towns that have seen large property tax decreases after mill closures or downward valuations by increasing school funding, providing \$900,000 in surplus education money to Madison and other affected towns on a one-time basis. That isn't terribly controversial. However, LePage's version of the bill also makes permanent, more generic changes to Maine's school funding formula to trigger emergency funding when a town sees a loss of 4.5 percent in valuation attributable to one employer.” [Sun Journal, 4/14/16]

## Sexual Harassment

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Remove The Age Limit On Laws About Sexual Harassment Or Assault Of Students At Elementary, Secondary, Or Special Education Schools**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Remove The Age Limit On Laws About Sexual Harassment Or Assault Of Students At Elementary, Secondary, Or Special Education Schools.** Crafts voted against LD 1540, “An Act To Protect All Students in Elementary or Secondary Schools from Sexual Assault by School Officials.” “This bill removes the age limit on the victim of the crime of unlawful sexual contact, unlawful sexual touching or gross sexual assault when the victim is a student at an elementary, secondary or special education school and the actor is a person at the school who has authority over the student. The bill also specifies that a parent convicted of the crime of unlawful sexual contact, unlawful sexual touching or gross sexual assault is subject to stricter scrutiny by the court when it determines residence for and contact with a child of the parent when the victim was a student at an elementary, secondary or special education school and the parent was a person at the school who had authority over the student.” [Maine Legislature, LD1540, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

## Environmental Safety

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Restrict The Use Of Harmful Pesticides On School Grounds**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Restrict The Use Of Harmful Pesticides On School Grounds.** Crafts voted against LD 961, “An Act To Ensure Safe School Grounds.” “This bill restricts the use of pesticides on school grounds. It allows their use only in situations that pose a health threat to a student or staff member, when the presence of animals or insects have been identified as a public health nuisance, on athletic fields if there is a 14-day waiting period after application of the pesticides or on agricultural fields in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. It requires the Commissioner of Education to adopt rules to implement landscaping design that minimizes or avoids the necessity of the use of pesticides on school grounds for new construction of school facilities.” [Maine Legislature, LD 961, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require Public Schools To Offer CPR Instruction**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require Public Schools To Offer CPR Instruction.** Crafts was one of only 15 “Nay” votes against LD 556, “An Act To Require Public Schools To Offer Instruction Related to Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the Use of an Automated External Defibrillator.” “This bill requires public schools to offer training to students on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use automated external defibrillators in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Education. The rules must be designed to ensure that the training requirements can be met without a public school's being required to expand or modify its activity so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.” [Maine Legislature, LD556, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Funding

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill To Increase Funding In Schools

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill To Increase Funding In Schools.** Crafts voted against LD 667, “An Act To Increase Funding In Schools.” “This bill amends the law that provides for a proportional share reduction in the amount of local share revenues that municipalities must raise under the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act when the State does not fund the 55% state share required by law. The bill phases out the proportional share reduction over a 3-year period from fiscal year 2014-15 to fiscal year 2016-17.” [Maine Legislature, LD 667, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Funding For HIV Prevention Education

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Provide Funding For HIV Prevention Education.** Crafts voted against LD 1699, “An Act To Fund the Maine HIV Prevention Education Program within the Department of Education.” “This bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$150,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2013-14 to partially offset the loss of federal grant funds used to provide HIV prevention training and education to educators in Maine.” [Maine Legislature, LD1699, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

## Early Childhood Education

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Preserve Head Start And Child Care Services

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Preserve Head Start And Child Care Services.** Crafts voted against LD 1682, “An Act To Preserve Head Start and Child Care Services.” “This bill provides for the allocation of funding among Maine's 11 nontribal Head Start programs based on a formula that provides a base allocation to each program and distributes all remaining funding based on the number of children in poverty in each program's service area. The bill also provides a \$2,000,000 appropriation to state Head Start programs in fiscal year 2014-15, fully replacing the cut that was made in fiscal year 2012-13. These funds will allow the State to maximize child care development fund block grants to provide child care vouchers.” [Maine Legislature, LD1682, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

### Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require Implementation Of Universal Voluntary Pre-K Education

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Require Implementation Of Universal Voluntary Pre-K Education.** Crafts voted against LD 1530, “An Act To Establish a Process for the Implementation of Universal Voluntary Prekindergarten Education.” “This bill requires implementation of universal voluntary prekindergarten education by the 2017-2018 school year. The Commissioner of Education is required to establish a stakeholder group to work with the commissioner and interested parties to establish a plan to implement the requirement. The stakeholder group is required to develop standards for prekindergarten education programs, recommend uniform statewide procedures for screening children and assessing program performance and recommend best practices to coordinate early childhood education programs with child care providers. The commissioner is required to submit a report of the work of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2014, and the committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature regarding the report. The bill also clarifies the role of the State Board of Education with regard to prekindergarten education, changes the compulsory age for school attendance from 7 years of age to 5 years of age beginning July 1, 2016 and provides that funding provided to a school administrative unit for prekindergarten purposes may not be used for other purposes. The bill provides that the Commissioner of Education must provide implementation grants and provides funds for those grants and for a position in the Department of Education to oversee early childhood education programs.” [Maine Legislature, LD 1530, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

## **Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Improve The Delivery Of And Set A Minimum Wage For Early Child Care And Education Services**

**Crafts Voted Against A Bill That Would Improve The Delivery Of And Set A Minimum Wage For Early Child Care And Education Services.** Crafts voted against LD 1383, “An Act To Improve the Delivery of Early Child Care and Education Services.” “This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to pay child care services at the 75th percentile of the most current local market rate survey and pay a 10% premium to providers who meet tiered quality rating standards. It requires all providers of home visiting services to collaborate to better define rules and service parameters, directs Head Start program funding to the Early Head Start program, requires the department and the Child Care Advisory Council to establish a definition of "at-risk child" for the purposes of child care eligibility and diversifies the funding and uses of the early childhood professional development registry. It contains funding appropriations for child care, home visiting and Head Start.” [Maine Legislature, LD1383, accessed [7/23/20](#)]

## Energy Issues

### Maine Hydropower Line

#### Crafts Opposed The \$1 Billion Plan To A New Hydropower Transmission Line That Would Go Through Western Maine

**Crafts Opposed The \$1 Billion Plan To A New Hydropower Transmission Line That Would Go Through Western Maine.** “Maine’s 2<sup>nd</sup> District congressman says he has ‘serious concerns’ about the \$1 billion plan to bring Quebec hydropower into the New England power grid via a new substation in Lewiston. [...] “All three of his GOP challengers — Adrienne Bennett of Bangor, Dale Crafts of Lisbon and Eric Brakey of Auburn — are opposed to the power company’s proposal to create a new transmission line through western Maine.” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 12/11/19]

### Renewable Energy

#### Crafts Opposed Government Funding For The Development Of Renewable Energy

**Crafts Opposed Government Funding For The Development Of Renewable Energy.** Crafts answered “No” to the question “Do you support government funding for the development of renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, geothermal)?” He added that “The advancement in efficiency and technology takes care of itself in time.” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### Crafts Supported Tax Incentives For The Development Of “Green Energy”

**Crafts Supported Tax Incentives For The Development Of “Green Energy.”** In an interview with Sun Journal, Crafts state that “A major role that Maine should have is through our natural resources, which include wood, wind and hydro, along with alternative energy like hydrogen. We should also offer tax incentives for companies for the research and development of ‘green energy.’” [Sun Journal, 10/26/08]

## Environmental Issues

### Climate Change

#### Crafts Was A Climate Denier

##### **Crafts Said He Thought The Climate “Changes Naturally” And That Science Was “Still Out There” And Up For Debate About The Extent Of Human-Caused Climate Change**

**Crafts Said He Thought The Climate “Changes Naturally” And That Science Was “Still Out There” And Up For Debate About The Extent Of Human-Caused Climate Change.** “Well listen, I think the science is still out there, you know, certainly this country has moved more and more to making things more efficient, and I remember when I was a kid growing up in Lisbon, you know, that there used to be foam come down the river down through Lisbon and the Androscoggin river. You know, that’s been cleaned up. You know what, we can just continue to move forward with science and do a better job, and you know what, it’s, the climate does change. From the time I was a boy to now it changes, I think it changes naturally.” [Maine Public, [7/9/20](#)]

### Conservation

#### Crafts Supported LePage Blocking President Obama’s Authority To Designate A National Monument In The North Woods Region

**Crafts Supported LePage Blocking President Obama’s Authority To Designate A National Monument In The North Woods Region.** “Rural Democrats in the Maine House of Representatives broke ranks on Thursday to narrowly endorse Gov. Paul LePage's bid to block the president's authority to designate a national monument in the North Woods region. LD 1600. The measure passed 77-71. [...] Rep. Dale J. Crafts (R-Lisbon) Y [...] The bill is likely to face constitutional challenges and is a largely symbolic missive toward the family of Roxanne Quimby, the billionaire entrepreneur who has been lobbying President Barack Obama to give monument status to her 87,500 acres east of Baxter State Park. It could be a first step toward Quimby's goal of gaining national park status, which requires congressional approval, unlike a monument, and has emerged as one of Maine's most contentious issues. The Republican governor's bill passed the House in an initial 77- 71 vote, swung by eight Democrats voting against the rest of their party. It now goes to the Senate and faces more votes.” [Sun Journal, 3/31/16]

**The Bill Would Have Been First Steps Toward Quimby Gaining National Park Status Which Requires Congressional Approval – One Of Maine’s Most Contentious Issues.** “It could be a first step toward Quimby's goal of gaining national park status, which requires congressional approval, unlike a monument, and has emerged as one of Maine's most contentious issues.” [Sun Journal, 3/31/16]

#### Crafts Opposed Funding A Camp That Supporters Called Critical To The Mission Of Fish And Wildlife, After An Employee Filed A Suit Claiming The Camp Was Uninhabitable

##### **Crafts Opposed A Two-Story Camp Constructed By Fish And Wildlife Wardens For Their Enforcement Work At Baker Lake**

**Crafts Opposed A Two-Story Camp Constructed By Wardens For Their Enforcement Work At Baker Lake.** “A brand-new two-story camp constructed by wardens for their enforcement work at Baker Lake deep in the forest in northern Somerset County has come under fire from some legislators. [...] ‘I’m very upset about it, to be honest with you,’ said Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon. ‘We worked very hard through the budget to really try to keep down fees for the sportsmen.’ Each time the department raises fees, there are fewer hunters, he said. [...] Crafts said he believes the true cost of the Baker Lake camp, if the benefits are included, is in the \$175,000 range.” [Bangor Daily News, 1/29/10]

**The Baker Lake Camp Was Located On State Land And Was Used For Enforcement Work By Wardens, Biologists And A Variety Of Law Enforcement Officers.** “The Baker Lake camp, located on state land, is one of 34 ‘rustic’ camps or houses owned by DIF&W and used for enforcement work by wardens, biologists and a variety of law enforcement officers, Wilkinson said. He said he plans in the future to provide the Legislature's Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee an overview of all of the department's camps, where they are located and whether they are on state-owned or leased land. He said he has no idea what the camps are valued at and wasn't sure who had that information.” [Bangor Daily News, 1/29/10]

---

**Supporters Said The New Camp Was Critical To The Department Of Inland Fisheries And Wildlife's Mission**

---

**Supporters Said The New Camp Was Critical To The Department Of Inland Fisheries And Wildlife's Mission.** “Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Commissioner Roland ‘Danny’ Martin staunchly defended the project, saying the camps in the state's remote areas are critical to the department's mission. He said the license fee increases that started this month are unrelated to the new camp construction. The construction was funded through the general budget and was not a special appropriation.” [Bangor Daily News, 1/29/10]

---

**An Employee Filed A Lawsuit That Claimed The Camp Was Infested By Rodents And Had No Running Water Or Indoor Plumbing, And Was Unsanitary Because Of Rodent Droppings**

---

**An Employee Filed A Lawsuit That Claimed The Camp Was Infested By Rodents And Had No Running Water Or Indoor Plumbing, And Was Unsanitary Because Of Rodent Droppings.** “Since an employee complained about the squalid living conditions of the Lily Bay camp in a grievance filed in 2005 that later turned into a lawsuit, Wilkinson said it seemed wise to improve one or two camps a year to bring them up to standards. The warden who filed the lawsuit said the camp was infested by rodents and had no running water or indoor plumbing, and was unsanitary because of rodent droppings. That lawsuit was settled but the details were not released as part of the settlement. Sympathetic to the employee's concerns, Wilkinson said, ‘I'm not going to ask people to go stay in something that I don't think is suitable.’ Because considerable planning had been done for the Baker Lake project before his advancement, Wilkinson chose to continue with that project, considering its condition.” [Bangor Daily News, 1/29/10]



## Foreign Policy Issues

### Military Intervention

#### **Crafts Believed The U.S. Should Use Military Force To Prevent Foreign Governments From Possessing Weapons Of Mass Destruction**

**Crafts Believed The U.S. Should Use Military Force To Prevent Foreign Governments From Possessing Weapons Of Mass Destruction.** Crafts answered “Yes” to the question “Should the United States use military force to prevent governments hostile to the U.S. from possessing a weapon of mass destruction (for example: nuclear, biological, chemical)?” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### **Crafts Did Not Support Reducing Military Intervention In Middle East Conflicts**

**Crafts Did Not Support Reducing Military Intervention In Middle East Conflicts.** Crafts answered “No” to the question “Do you support reducing military intervention in Middle East conflicts?” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### **Crafts Wouldn't Earn Republican Opponent Eric Brakey's Endorsement Unless He Agreed To Vote To End U.S. Involvement In The War In Afghanistan**

**Crafts Wouldn't Earn Republican Opponent Eric Brakey's Endorsement Unless He Agreed To Vote To End U.S. Involvement In The War In Afghanistan.** “Brakey conceded late Tuesday, but told supporters he won't endorse Crafts unless the victor agrees to vote to end U.S. involvement in the war in Afghanistan ‘and other unconstitutional wars,’ a provision the Lisbon candidate is unlikely to adopt.” [Sun Journal, 7/14/20]

#### **Crafts Criticized Brakey's Desire To End Wars, Saying The U.S. Economy Would “Collapse Tomorrow” And “China And Russia Would Overtake The World”**

**Crafts Criticized Brakey's Desire To End Wars, Saying The U.S. Economy Would “Collapse Tomorrow” And “China And Russia Would Overtake The World.”** “Crafts criticized [Brakey's desire to end unconstitutional wars] from an economic angle, saying the U.S. economy would ‘absolutely collapse tomorrow’ if the United States pulled its troops from around the globe, while there would be international repercussions, too. ‘China and Russia would overtake the world,’ he said. ‘Al-Qaeda and ISIS would go rampant and Israel would be wiped off the face of the earth.’” [Bangor Daily News, 2/6/20]

### Palestine

#### **Crafts Disagreed With Sanctions And Divestment Against Israel If They Refused To Allow The Creation Of A Palestinian State**

**Crafts Disagreed With Sanctions And Divestment Against Israel If They Refused To Allow The Creation Of A Palestinian State.** Crafts chose “Strongly Disagree” in response to the statement that “I support BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanction) against Israel if they refuse to allow the creation of a Palestinian state.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Gun Issues

### Concealed Weapons

#### **Crafts Wrote Legislation That Would Allow Concealed Weapons In The State House, But Dropped The Bill In Response To A State Lawmaker Arrest For Criminal Threatening**

**Crafts Wrote Legislation That Would Allow Concealed Weapons In The State House.** “L.D. 932, ‘An Act to Allow Concealed Weapons in the State House,’ is headed to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, told the Times Record in Brunswick that he’s ‘trying to encourage people to get a concealed weapons permit because I believe an armed society is a safer society.’ Expect vigorous debate on this one, with Democrats arguing that it’s not necessary to have guns in the State House to increase safety.” [Portland Press Herald, 3/14/11]

**Crafts Said He Was Worried About The Security In The Building.** “Beginning in January, there will be full-time screening for weapons at the entrance of the State House, according to a new security proposal by legislative leaders. Security has become a top issue for legislators for several reasons, including the arrest of one lawmaker last weekend on charges of criminal threatening and carrying a concealed weapon. [...] The policy change will likely lead Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, to drop his support for a bill he sponsored, which would allow concealed-weapons permit holders to carry guns in the State House. L.D. 932 is opposed by Democrats and got a divided committee vote. Crafts said Thursday that his intention was just to increase security around the building. ‘I was concerned about the safety of the building and especially (in the House chamber), because once you’re in there, you’re in a fishbowl,’ he said.” [Morning Sentinel, 5/27/11]

**Crafts Said He Would Let His Bill Die If He Was Satisfied With A New Security Plan.** “As things are, anybody could walk into the building with a concealed weapon, he said. Crafts said he spoke with leadership recently and will let his bill die if he is satisfied with the new security plan. ‘I’m just kind of holding it to see what the plan is actually going to be. ... If I feel that the members are safe and the public’s safe, then I am OK with it,’ he said. Asked why he didn’t just submit a bill to require security screening, Crafts said, ‘Well, I would want to see that. If I am going to be in here without being able to personally protect myself, then we need to make sure that nothing’s coming in here’ [Morning Sentinel, 5/27/11]

---

#### **Crafts Withdrew His Bill After He Felt Safety Measures Put In Place Were Satisfactory**

---

**Crafts Withdrew His Bill To Allow Concealed Weapons Into the State House After He Felt Safety Measures Put In Place Were Satisfactory.** “Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, sponsored a bill called ‘An Act to Allow Concealed Weapons in the State House.’ Crafts withdrew his bill because he said he is satisfied with new security measures being put in place in the Capitol after an incident involving Rep. Frederick Wintle, R-Garland, who was arrested last month after he allegedly pointed a handgun at a man outside a coffee shop in Waterville. ‘That just proved my point,’ Crafts said, referencing Wintle after the debate on the House floor. ‘I told leadership that if I knew what would be going on around here for security that I’d consider pulling my bill. To me it’s just like a fishbowl [in the House chamber]. Someone could come through those doors and there’s no place to go.’ [Bangor Daily News, 6/8/11]

---

#### **Crafts Bill Was Response To A State Lawmaker Being Arrested And Charged With Criminal Threatening And Carrying A Concealed Weapon**

---

**Crafts Bill Was Response To A State Lawmaker Who Was Charged With Criminal Threatening And Carrying A Concealed Weapon.** “Security has become a top issue for legislators for several reasons, including the arrest of one lawmaker last weekend on charges of criminal threatening and carrying a concealed weapon. State Rep. Frederick Wintle, R-Garland, allegedly pointed a loaded pistol at a man in the parking lot of a Dunkin’ Donuts on Saturday in Waterville. After his arrest, fellow lawmakers said his behavior had been increasingly odd in recent

weeks. [...] The policy change will likely lead Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, to drop his support for a bill he sponsored, which would allow concealed-weapons permit holders to carry guns in the State House. L.D. 932 is opposed by Democrats and got a divided committee vote. Crafts said Thursday that his intention was just to increase security around the building.” [Morning Sentinel, 5/27/11]

**People Were Also Concerned After The Gabby Giffords Shooting.** “Concerns about lax security around the Capitol complex have been discussed since January, when U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona was shot during a public event in Tucson. A panel of legislative leaders has explored ways to ensure the safety of the public and lawmakers.” [Morning Sentinel, 5/27/11]

### **Crafts Supported Allowing Maine Residents To Carry Concealed Weapons Without A Permit**

#### **Crafts Sponsored Legislation That Allowed Maine Residents To Carry Concealed Weapons Without A Permit, Even Though It Was Opposed By The Sheriffs Association And Maine Department of Public Safety**

**Crafts Sponsored Legislation That Allowed Maine Residents To Carry Concealed Weapons Without A Permit.** “Another bill, LD 658, essentially would flip Maine’s policy regarding concealed firearms. The measure, sponsored by Republican Rep. Dale Crafts of Lisbon, would allow Maine residents to carry concealed weapons without a permit. [...] But Maine State Police Lt. David Bowler, speaking on behalf of the Maine Department of Public Safety, pointed out that Crafts’ bill also would repeal the prohibition on people carrying brass knuckles, switchblades or other dangerous weapons. Additionally, the bill would appear to allow permit holders to carry those items into schools.

**The Legislation Was Opposed By The Maine Department Of Public Safety.** “Maine State Police Lt. David Bowler, speaking on behalf of the Maine Department of Public Safety, pointed out that Crafts’ bill also would repeal the prohibition on people carrying brass knuckles, switchblades or other dangerous weapons. Additionally, the bill would appear to allow permit holders to carry those items into schools

**The Bill Was Opposed By The Sheriffs Association.** “The Maine Sheriffs Association also raised concerns about Crafts’ bill and instead testified in support of keeping the concealed firearms permitting system.” [Bangor Daily News, 4/12/11]

#### **Crafts Voted In Support Of Legislation That Made It Legal To Carry A Concealed Handgun Without A Permit, Which Was Defeated By A Single Vote**

**Crafts Voted In Support Of Legislation That Made It Legal To Carry A Concealed Handgun Without A Permit That Was Defeated By A Single Vote.** A bill that would have made it legal to carry a concealed handgun without a permit was defeated by a single vote Tuesday in the Maine House of Representatives. [...] Note: A yes vote was against the bill. Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon. No. The bill, LD 660, which was supported by Second Amendment advocates, would have allowed anyone not prohibited from possessing a firearm to carry one concealed. Maine's current law requires a government-issued permit to carry a concealed handgun. State law allows open carrying of firearms without a permit.” [Sun Journal, 6/11/13]

**The Bill Was Defeated By A Single Vote.** “A bill that would have made it legal to carry a concealed handgun without a permit was defeated by a single vote Tuesday in the Maine House of Representatives.” [Sun Journal, 6/11/13]

## **Gun Rights**

### **Crafts Served On The Sportsman's Alliance Of Maine, Which Supported Silencer Legislation That Critics Said Could Lead To Illegal Practices**

**Crafts Served On The Sportsman's Alliance Of Maine, Which Supported Silencer Legislation.** “Gun safety advocates, local police and the Maine Warden Service have concerns about the use of silencers while hunting. Critics say the silencers may lead to more hunting close to homes and other illegal practices, such as hunting out of season or outside legal hours. Even so, there has been little public outcry or resistance from those critics to the law, including the Maine Warden Service, which testified against it during the legislative process. Two members of the Legislature's Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, which conducted the public hearing on the bill - the Senate chairman, Paul Davis, R-Sangerville, and Rep. Dale Crafts, R- Lisbon Falls - are on the board of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, which supported the legislation. The law, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Garrett Mason, R- Lisbon Falls, went into effect Oct. 15 and has been approved on a trial basis until 2018.” [Portland Press Herald, 11/1/15]

---

**Critics Of The Silencer Legislation Said It Could Lead To More Hunting Close To Homes And Other Illegal Practices**

---

**Critics Of The Silencer Legislation Said It Could Lead To More Hunting Close To Homes And Other Illegal Practices.** “Critics say the silencers may lead to more hunting close to homes and other illegal practices, such as hunting out of season or outside legal hours. Even so, there has been little public outcry or resistance from those critics to the law, including the Maine Warden Service, which testified against it during the legislative process.” [Portland Press Herald, 11/1/15]

**Crafts Sponsored Legislation That Allowed Workers In The Private Sector To Leave Guns Locked In Their Cars**

**Crafts Sponsored Legislation That Allowed Workers In The Private Sector To Leave Guns Locked In Their Cars.** “Rep. Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon, is seeking to modify a controversial bill signed into law in June that allows those with a concealed firearm permit to store a gun in their vehicle at work, as long as the vehicle is locked and the firearm is not visible. Crafts has submitted new legislation, L.D. 1603, to extend the same right to state workers as those who work in the private sector.” [12/26/11]

**Crafts Sponsored Legislation That Would Allow State Employees To Leave Guns Locked In Their Cars**

**Crafts Sponsored Legislation That Would Allow State Employees To Leave Guns Locked In Their Cars As Long As They Had A Concealed Weapons Permit.** “The state House of Representatives on Monday gave first approval to a bill allowing state employees to leave guns locked in their cars as long as they have a concealed weapons permit. House members voted 84-55 to green-light the bill, LD 1603, with a handful of Democrats voting with the Republican majority. The measure amends a hotly debated bill that narrowly passed last year enabling private sector workers to keep guns stowed in their vehicle. This proposal, LD 1603, sponsored by Rep. Dale Crafts, R- Lisbon Falls, broadens the law to include state employees.” [Sun Journal, 3/12/12]

**Crafts Said He Had Been A Sportsman For Over 30 Years Defending Gun Rights**

**Crafts Said He Had Been A Sportsman For Over 30 Years Defending Gun Rights.** “Crafts said he’s been a sportsman for more than 30 years defending gun rights and protecting ‘Maine’s natural beauty and outdoor heritage,’ something he would continue in Congress. Crafts, who uses a wheelchair, is an avid hunter who has a specially made tractor that allows him get into the woods. ‘If you can’t find me on the campaign trail,’ he said, ‘I am probably out hunting in my track chair.’” [Portland Press Herald, 10/25/19]

**Crafts Said He “Led The Effort To Ensure All Mainers Have The Right To Bear Arms For Sport, Recreation, Collection And Personal Protection”**

**Crafts Said He “Led The Effort To Ensure All Mainers Have The Right To Bear Arms For Sport, Recreation, Collection And Personal Protection.”** “When it comes to our 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights, I don’t just talk the talk. During my time on the Legislature’s Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee and as a Board Member for the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine, I have led the effort to ensure all Mainers have the right to bear arms for sport, recreation, collection and personal protection. Law abiding American have the right to bear arms period.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **NRA**

### **Crafts Said He Had An A+ Rating From The NRA And Did Not Support Gun Control Legislation**

**Crafts Said He Had An A+ Rating From The NRA.** Crafts answered “No” to the question “Do you generally support gun-control legislation?” and then added “I have a strong record of protecting 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. I am a Board Member with the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine and have earned an A+ rating with the NRA.” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

# Immigration and Border Issues

## Immigration Law

### **Crafts Said It Was A “Disaster” That “People Come To Our Country Who Are Changing Our Way Of Life And Changing Our Culture”**

**Crafts Said It Was A “Disaster” That “People Come To Our Country Who Are Changing Our Way Of Life And Changing Our Culture.”** “Despite Maine’s aging population and stagnant population growth, the three Republicans seeking to represent the state’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District have harsh words for immigrants. Though the district — the largest east of the Mississippi River — is 94% white, Dale Crafts of Lisbon warned in a debate in Lewiston that ‘a lot of people come to our country who are changing our way of life and changing our culture.’ ‘It’s a disaster,’ Crafts said as he hailed President Donald Trump for ‘doing something about it.’” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 6/17/20]

### **Crafts Blamed Immigrants For Tainting Free Market Capitalism, Saying That More Immigration Leads To A Socialist Economy**

**Crafts Blamed Immigrants For Tainting Free Market Capitalism, Saying That More Immigration Leads To A Socialist Economy.** “Well if you look at our America, this is a, this country was started on free market capitalism that grew the world, changed the world. And technology and jobs and technology brought the standard of living very high all around the world. And you know what it seems that the more outsiders come here, not from a free market capitalist economy, its turning into more of a socialist economy and I really struggle with that part of our country changing.” [WMTW TV, [6/30/20](#)]

### **Crafts Said Existing Immigration Law Should Be Enforced And Argued That Maine Citizens Should Be Prioritized Over Immigrants**

**Crafts Said Existing Immigration Law Should Be Enforced And Argued That Maine Citizens Should Be Prioritized Over Immigrants.** “Crafts said the country should start ‘by just enforcing the rules that we already have’ on immigration. That hasn’t happened, he said, because Democrats want newcomers to pour into the country since ‘they usually end up being Democratic voters,’ though only legal immigrants who have become citizens are allowed to vote. ‘We have to take care of our own,’ Crafts said, but Gov. Janet Mills ‘just keeps inviting ‘em’ to Maine. ‘Thank God for Donald Trump,’ Crafts said.” [Waterville Morning Sentinel, 6/17/20]

### **Crafts Supported Requiring Unlawfully Present Immigrants To Return To Their Country Of Origin Before They Would Be Eligible For Citizenship**

**Crafts Supported Requiring Unlawfully Present Immigrants To Return To Their Country Of Origin Before They Would Be Eligible For Citizenship.** Crafts answered “Yes” to the question “Do you support requiring immigrants who are unlawfully present to return to their country of origin before they are eligible for citizenship?” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

### **Crafts Believed Employers Should Be Required To Use E-Verify To Confirm Work Eligibility**

**Crafts Believed Employers Should Be Required To Use E-Verify To Confirm Work Eligibility.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in reference to the statement that “Employers should be required to use E-verify to confirm the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Crafts Advocated For Cracking Down On Illegal Immigration, Saying It “Puts Our National And Economic Security At Risk”**

**Crafts Advocated For Cracking Down On Illegal Immigration, Saying It “Puts Our National And Economic Security At Risk.”** In response to the question “Who should be allowed to immigrate to the U.S. and under what circumstances?” Crafts said “Welcoming new citizens into the United States strengthens our society and broadens our ability to accomplish great things. However, any sovereign nation has a right and an obligation to protect its borders from those who enter illegally. In order to reduce the number of illegal immigrants in our country, we first must enforce the laws that already exist. Illegal immigration puts our national and economic security at risk. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is not a restriction of religion from the state.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Border Wall**

### **Crafts Favored A Border Wall**

**Crafts Favored A Border Wall.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in reference to the statement that “I am in favor of construction of a wall and other necessary infrastructure on our border that gives complete control over entering and exiting the United States.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **ICE**

### **Crafts Was Against The Abolition Of ICE**

**Crafts Was Against The Abolition Of ICE.** Crafts chose “Strongly Disagree” in reference to the statement that “Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) should be abolished.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Sanctuary Cities**

### **Crafts Believed State And Federal Funding Should Be Denied To Public Entities Who Refused To Comply With Immigration Laws**

**Crafts Believed State And Federal Funding Should Be Denied To Public Entities Who Refused To Comply With Immigration Laws.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in reference to the statement that “State and federal funds should be denied to any public or private entity, including but not limited to sanctuary cities, that are not in compliance with immigration laws.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## LGBT Issues

### Marriage Equality

#### Crafts Said He “Always Voted Traditional Marriage” Because He Was Brought Up That Way

**Crafts Said He “Always Voted Traditional Marriage” Because He Was Brought Up That Way.** “Well listen, I did vote in the legislature, I’ve always voted traditional marriage, it’s always been my position just because I was brought up that way but you know what we have the law of the land and it’s there and one thing I don’t ever want to discriminate against anybody as a businessman you know. I have friends that I do business with, friends that are just friends, and you know what they are my friends.” [Maine Public Radio, [6/24/20](#)]

#### Crafts Believed Businesses Should Be Allowed To Discriminate Against Same-Sex Couples

**Crafts Believed Businesses Should Be Allowed To Discriminate Against Same-Sex Couples.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in response to the statement that “Governments should not discriminate against individuals, organizations or small businesses because of their belief that marriage is only a union of one man and one woman.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### 2009: Crafts Opposed A Same-Sex Marriage Bill

**2009: Crafts Voted No On A Same-Sex Marriage Bill.** “How representatives from Central and Western Maine voted on the same-sex marriage bill Tuesday. The bill was approved 89-57. Voting ‘no’ [...] Dale Crafts, R-Lisbon.” [Sun Journal, 5/6/09]

### Discrimination Laws

#### Crafts Disagreed With Adding Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity And Gender Expression As Protected Classes In Non-Discrimination Laws

**Crafts Disagreed With Adding Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity And Gender Expression As Protected Classes In Non-Discrimination Laws.** Crafts chose “Strongly Disagree” in response to the statement that “I support adding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as protected classes in non-discrimination laws.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### Crafts Co-Sponsored A Bill That Would Have Allowed Religious Conviction To Justify Discrimination, Specifically Against Gays And Lesbians

**Crafts Co-Sponsored An “Act to Enact the Preservation of Religious Freedom Act” That Allowed Religious Conviction To Justify Discrimination, Specifically Against Gays And Lesbians.** “Just a housekeeping note: Sen. David Burns' ;Act to Enact the Preservation of Religious Freedom Act’ has been printed and given an LD number -- 1340. The text of the bill is the same as I reported last week. ICYMI, the bill is nearly identical in substance to the controversial religious freedom law passed recently in Indiana -- the one that sparked national controversy and debate over whether religious conviction can justify discrimination, specifically against gays and lesbians. [...] He presented a similar bill last year, before Indiana and Arkansas thrust these kinds of 'religious freedom' laws into the spotlight, but it was killed in the Senate. [...] In fact, the bill's support is decidedly partisan. Other co- sponsors include Sen. Paul Davis of Sangerville and Reps. Dale Crafts of Lisbon, Sheldon Hannington of Lincoln, Ricky Long of Sherman and Richard Pickett of Dixfield -- all Republicans. Rep. John Henry Bear of the Houlton Band of Maliseets is also a co- sponsor.” [Sun Journal, 4/14/15]



## Military Personnel Issues

### Defense Spending

#### Crafts Believed The Best Way To Maintain Peace Was Through A Strong Military

**Crafts Believed The Best Way To Maintain Peace Was Through A Strong Military.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in response to the statement that “The best way to maintain peace is through a strong military.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### Crafts: “As A Businessman, We Need To Prioritize Our Defense Spending First”

**Crafts: “As A Businessman, We Need To Prioritize Our Defense Spending First.”** “As a businessman, we need to prioritize our defense spending first and ensure that our men and women in the military have the resources they need to protect our country around the world.” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Religious Issues

### Religion In Government

#### **Crafts Believed Religious Liberty Was At Risk And Deserved Legal Protections In The U.S.**

**Crafts Believed Religious Liberty Was At Risk And Deserved Legal Protections In The U.S.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in response to the statement that “Religious liberty is at risk in the United States and deserves the highest level of protection in the law.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

#### **Crafts Believed Judeo-Christian Values Were Necessary For A Limited Government System**

**Crafts Believed Judeo-Christian Values Were Necessary For A Limited Government System.** Crafts chose “Strongly Agree” in response to the statement that “Judeo-Christian values established a framework of morality which is necessary for our system of limited government.” [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## **Terrorism and Homeland Security**

### **Crafts Was Concerned About “Islamic Jihadists” And Said “Political Correctness” Prevented Leaders From Dealing With Threats**

**Crafts Was Concerned About “Islamic Jihadists” And Said “Political Correctness” Prevented Leaders From Dealing With Threats.** “We must focus on protecting human life rather than protecting people from being offended. Political correctness prevents the nation’s leaders from facing the actual threat posed by Islamic jihadists. Accordingly, it is time for our leaders to face the stark realities of the threat we face and prioritize it accordingly. The Justice Department, the FBI, and all of our law enforcement agencies must be briefed on the radical ideology that permeates terrorist organizations around the world that drives them to focus on killing as many of us as possible and eliminating us from the face of the Earth. This is not the time to cut out references to radical Islam in the briefings of our national security officers. We must focus on the threat we face. Recognizing the true nature of our enemy is the first step to actually defeating them and saving precious lives in the process. [Dale Crafts iVoterGuide Candidate Profile, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Trade Issues

### International Trade

#### Crafts Supported Removing Barriers To International Trade

**Crafts Supported Removing Barriers To International Trade.** Crafts answered “Yes” to the question “Do you generally support removing barriers to international trade (for example: tariffs, quotas, etc.)?” [Project VoteSmart, Political Courage Test, accessed [7/22/20](#)]

## Veterans' Issues

### Veteran Support

#### **Crafts Announced A Veteran's Coalition Of Over 50 Veterans From Across Maine Who Supported His Campaign**

**Crafts Announced A Veteran's Coalition Of Over 50 Veterans From Across Maine Who Supported His Campaign.** "Dale Crafts, candidate for Maine's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, has announced his Crafts for Congress Veteran's Coalition of over 50 veterans from across Maine. 'Since the founding of our Nation, we have relied on the strength of our military who continues to serve our country so courageously, protecting our most cherished value as Americans — freedom,' Crafts said. 'I am honored to have so many veterans from across Maine support my campaign, and as your Congressman, I will honor their courage, dedication and sacrifice by working to increase access to healthcare, creating a pathway for veterans to transition their military skills into the civilian workforce, and streamlining resources to maximize America's ability to care for our veterans.'" [St. John Valley Times, 2/27/20]