

Resolve 9-12/13

Passage 8-0 (Councilor Leeman gone)

MICHAEL F. BRENNAN (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (3)
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)
JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING BUDGET PROPOSALS TO
SHIFT BURDEN OF FUNDING STATE GOVERNMENT
TO THE PROPERTY TAX AND PROPERTY TAX PAYER**

WHEREAS, the Governor has submitted a proposed budget for the coming biennium that will dramatically shift the burden of funding state government to the property tax and property tax payers by eliminating or significantly modifying long-standing property tax relief programs; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget would result in the City of Portland losing almost \$11.5 million dollars in funds as a result of proposals related to revenue sharing, teacher retirement, general assistance and the business equipment tax reimbursement (BETR) program; and

WHEREAS, the reductions in funding outlined in the proposed budget would significantly increase property taxes and compromise the City's ability to meet its resident's expectations and needs, as well as offer basic public services; and

WHEREAS, the City has always worked to maintain an effective partnership with state government; and

WHEREAS, this budget proposal significantly alters the City's partnership with the State and undermines the City's economic development and job creation efforts; and

WHEREAS, this budget proposal places a greater burden on Portland taxpayers to provide a quality education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned members of the Portland City Council strongly oppose the provisions in the Governor's recently proposed budget that would significantly shift the burden of funding state government to the property tax and property taxpayer. These proposals will dramatically increase property taxes in the City of Portland, taxes which often are unrelated to the ability of property owners to pay, and will require spending reductions which will call into question our ability to protect the health, safety and welfare of our community and provide our residents with government services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution and the Council's action on it to the members of the Legislature representing the City of Portland, the members of the Appropriations and Taxation Committees, the

Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and to Legislative leadership.

I, Katherine Jones, Clerk of the City of Portland, Maine do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution, proposed by the City Council, was duly passed and adopted in the Council of the City of Portland, Maine at a meeting thereof assembled this 1st day of April, 2013, by the following vote:

Yes:

Nays:

Absent:

Seal:

Clerk, City of Portland, Maine