

Resolve 2-13/14

Passage: 8-0

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**

Effective 2/1/2014

JOHN R. COYNE (5)  
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)  
JON HINCK (A/L)  
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L).

**CITY OF PORTLAND  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE 2013 - 2014 CITY  
COUNCIL TO DEVELOP A MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF  
PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, municipalities in Maine have few taxing options under state law and must therefore rely heavily on the local property tax; and

**WHEREAS**, property taxes are regressive to lower-income citizens in that they pay a higher percentage of their income for property owned or rented; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Portland value the existing level of services provided by the City and do not wish to have these services eliminated or reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, property taxes continue to rise in order to maintain the existing level of services, imposing the greatest burdens on those with lower incomes; and

**WHEREAS**, Title 36 of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated offers municipalities several options for providing property tax relief and/or deferral to its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, a full and thorough vetting of these options will require a meaningful outreach process to stakeholders which, when coupled with consideration of implementation strategies, will place significant demands on finite City staff resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee of the 2012 - 2013 City Council recommends that a full and thorough vetting of these options occur but believes the full City Council should endorse this prospective allocation of finite staff resources before it begins.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE 2013 - 2014 CITY COUNCIL SHALL REVIEW THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE UNDER STATE LAW FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY RELIEF. THE INTENT OF THE REVIEW IS TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION FOR A MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM.**