

Maine
Cumberland **County**

DELEGATION BREAKFAST
129TH MAINE LEGISLATURE



CUMBERLAND COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

County Jail Finances - *Budget Process*

Behavioral Unit at Jail - *Rep. Farnsworth, Portland*

Browntail Moths - *Speaker Gideon, Freeport*

OTHER INITIATIVES

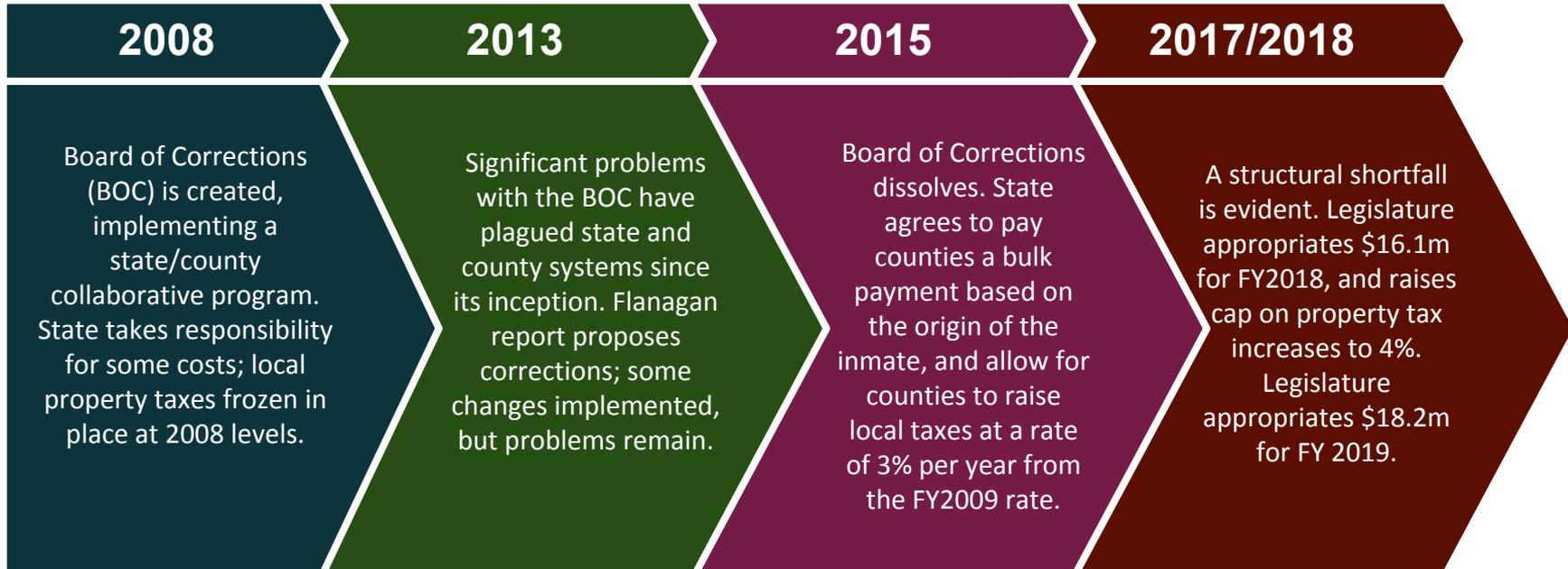
- **Voluntary regional collaboration**
- *Budget process*
- **Transition of some regional services**
- *Sen. Woodsome bill*
- **Property tax relief**
- *Local option sales tax / revenue sharing*
- **Broadband expansion**
- *Support coalition efforts.*
- **Domestic Violence Codification**
- *Support coalition efforts.*
- **Medication Assisted Treatment reimbursement**
- *Support coalition efforts.*
- **Solar fixes, support for municipal projects**
- *Support coalition efforts.*
- **Anti-Strangulation**
- *Support coalition efforts.*

KEY BILLS

JAIL FINANCES

COUNTY JAIL FUNDING

HISTORY



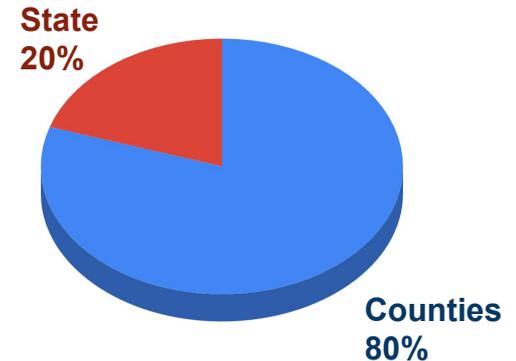
COUNTY JAIL FUNDING

JAIL BUDGET



128TH LEGISLATURE

2017 (FY18)	2018 (FY19)
\$12.2m budget (formula) \$3m supplemental (formula)	\$12.2m budget (formula) \$3m supplemental (formula) \$3m (based on need)
\$15.2 million	\$18.2 million



COUNTY JAIL FUNDING

STAY ON CURRENT TRACK



Formula funding at 2018 total levels - coupled with property taxes capped at 4 percent increase per year - is sustainable, for Cumberland County at least.

The formula is simple and defensible, and the counties and sheriffs aligned on it statewide in 2018.



The current system is triage, the remnants of a broken program - and it isn't ideal for the state or the counties.

REDESIGN SYSTEM



A new system could, in theory, create efficiencies and regional partnerships, improve services, and reduce some pressure on property taxes.



It would need to be a significant priority of the Governor and Legislature. The process of creating a new system will be time-consuming and politically charged. It will require buy-in and participation from a wide range of leaders in the Legislature, county governments and law enforcement as well as HHS, the Judiciary, Appropriations among other partners.

KEY BILLS

LOCAL KEY BILLS

BEHAVIORAL UNIT AT THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY JAIL



Representative Farnsworth

The Issue:

Lack of space at Riverview has led to extended stays in jail for inmates with mental health illnesses. Incarceration exacerbates the inmates' health and behavioral challenges, and creates an expensive backlog that prevents people from being screened quickly and processed either to mental health care facilities or through the system as mentally competent. It could also create legal problems for the state.

Proposal:

Facilitate a partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services and Cumberland County Jail to develop a behavioral health facility managed by DHHS on Jail property.

BATTLING THE BROWNTAIL MOTH



Speaker Gideon

The Issue:

The browntail moths are a significant public health nuisance. Currently they pose the largest challenges to coastal Cumberland and Sagadahoc counties, but are turning up statewide. The infestation in 2018 was the worst in over 100 years, creating rashes and respiratory threats to anyone exposed to their hairs. Since they only exist in Maine, any solutions to collapse the population must be home-grown.

Proposal:

Work with the University of Maine to develop a permanent research program that is dedicated to collapsing the population and improving resiliency to prevent it from exploding again. Propose legislation to fund this effort.

OTHER ITEMS

**STATEWIDE
LEGISLATIVE ITEMS**

OTHER ITEMS

VOLUNTARY REGIONAL COLLABORATION – *BUDGET PROCESS*

The Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services was designed to fund immediate, permanent regional collaborations. With broader guidelines and a larger pot of funds, this fund could supercharge growing efforts at county and municipal levels to create partnerships and share equipment or positions to meet local needs, and eliminate costly duplication of expenses.

VOLUNTARY TRANSITION OF SOME REGIONAL SERVICES – *SENATOR WOODSOME*

The bill is a resolve that would instruct DHHS to work with county governments in order to explore whether there are any department services - like health inspections, for example - that may be more effectively and efficiently provided at the county level instead of the state.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF – *LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX / REVENUE SHARING*

If the Legislature pursues the local option sales tax, Cumberland County believes that counties should be a part of the conversation. We are also supportive of restoring revenue sharing to municipalities.



OTHER ITEMS – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION EFFORTS

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PARTNERSHIP



VIP project goals are to coordinate a community response to domestic violence and sexual assault, hold offenders accountable and enhance victim safety. The VIP Project Director, Faye Luppi, represents Cumberland County on the court DV Advisory Council, the New Mainers DV and Sexual Assault Initiative, the Safe Campus project at USM, the U.S. Attorney's Project Safe Neighborhoods, and the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Assault. She also provides consultation to other jurisdictions in Maine and nationally on risk assessment in domestic violence cases. Violence Intervention Partnership (VIP). In 2015, VIP received a 3 year OVW/DOJ grant for \$438,001. This brings the total received from OVW for this project to \$3,891,740 since 1997.

STRANGULATION LAW CLARIFICATION – SENATOR CLAXTON

The bill corrects a structural problem with existing law. The “mental state” addition in the strangulation definition is currently inconsistent with the other parts of the statute, as well as setting a higher and legally inconsistent standard (i.e., an "intentional" act is inconsistent with acting with depraved indifference)



OTHER ITEMS – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION EFFORTS



Representative Reckitt

The Issue:

Domestic Violence perpetrators commit similar kinds of crimes and often ignore the same kind of laws, especially protection from abuse orders. But the laws are not established to categorize these perpetrators and better protect their victims. Specific language defining domestic violence aggravated assault does not currently exist, making it difficult to collect accurate data about DV crimes in Maine in order to better identify perpetrators, prevention methods and solutions.

Proposal:

Define “domestic violence aggravated assault,” “domestic violence elevated aggravated assault” and “domestic violence elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person” in law. Make violation of a protection from abuse order a Class C crime if the person has 2 or more prior convictions for violating a protection from abuse order.

OTHER ITEMS – COALITION EFFORTS

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT – *SUPPORTING COALITION EFFORTS*

Cumberland County Government supports coalition efforts to increase state reimbursement for MAT to the New England average of \$95 per week per patient, in order to improve treatment success rates and reduce relapse, overdoses, drug trade and recidivism in the County Jail.

BROADBAND EXPANSION – *SUPPORTING COALITION EFFORTS, BOND PACKAGE*

Cumberland County is committed to helping our communities achieve future-ready broadband access. We support coalition efforts for a large bond package, and encourage those efforts to incentivize collaboration between towns, regional utilities and plans.

SOLAR FIXES, SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS – *SUPPORTING COALITION EFFORTS*

Cumberland County is exploring solar arrays for the Cross Insurance Arena and eventually, the County Jail in order to reduce our carbon footprint and save taxpayer money. We support coalition efforts to restore net metering and undo other onerous solar rules set by the PUC.

END OF PRESENTATION

**QUESTIONS /
OPEN DISCUSSION**