



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF Policy Innovation and the Future

In her inaugural address, Governor Mills quoted the author Kurt Vonnegut, who said "Every government should have a department of the future." She created the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) to "dive into the state's major policy challenges, foster collaboration and propose concrete workable solutions" to benefit Maine people over the long-term.

GOPIF's areas of focus and leadership include:

Climate Change and Energy

Opioid Response and Prevention

Support and Development of Children

Workforce, Economy and Innovation



HANNAH PINGREE

Director
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Hannah served as Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives from 2008 to 2010. In her four legislative terms from 2002-2010, she served as House Majority Leader, and Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services. She has also worked for a technology start-up in New York, led the development of rural housing, energy efficiency, and eldercare projects; chaired her local school board, and served on numerous state and community nonprofit boards.



ANTHONY RONZIO

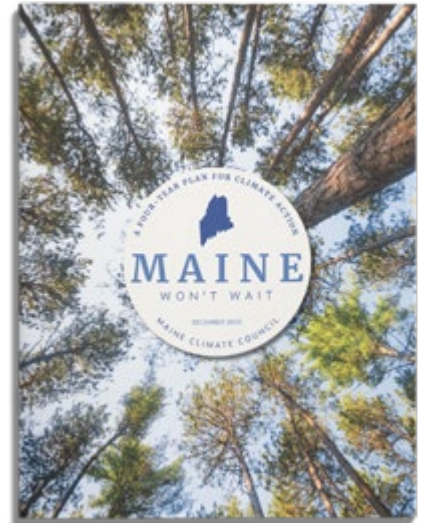
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Prior to GOPIF, Tony was director of digital strategy at Colby College from 2017-2020 and an award-winning journalist and senior leader at several Maine newspapers, including the Bangor Daily News, Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, and Sun Journal, from 2006-2017.

Maine Climate Council

Governor Mills has made combating climate change and encouraging clean energy policy one of her top administration priorities. She believes that by encouraging clean energy in Maine, Maine can grow good paying jobs and improve the environment and health for all Maine people. The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future is coordinating the work of the Maine Climate Council and works collaboratively with other state agencies, including the [Governor's Energy Office](#), and key stakeholders on policy issues related to climate and energy.

On December 1 2020, Governor Mills [welcomed](#) the release of *Maine Won't Wait* ([PDF](#)), the new four-year climate action plan from the Maine Climate Council, and announced actions her Administration will take to protect Maine people and communities and spur economic growth in the fight against climate change. *Maine Won't Wait* calls for decisive steps including bolstering the electric vehicle market in Maine, expanding the number of heat pumps installed in Maine homes, and transitioning to renewable energy to curb harmful greenhouse gas emissions. The report also details climate action steps to create economic opportunities for Maine, such as encouraging the growth of the clean energy economy; creating incentives for consumer, business and industry to invest in energy efficiency; and supporting innovative construction materials and agricultural systems that rely on Maine timber and farms to build and feed the state into the future.



To read the Climate Action Plan, please visit: climatecouncil.maine.gov

For more information on this initiative, contact Dr. Cassandra Rose.

Climate Change & Maine Climate Council



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Opioid Response

Maine has been hit hard by the opioid epidemic. Between 2010 and 2018, 2289 individuals died from an opioid-related overdose, a situation that has worsened in the months prior and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are our neighbors, our colleagues, our friends, and our family members. Governor Mills remains committed to addressing the opioid crisis and protecting Maine families.

[Maine's Opioid Response Strategic Action Plan](#) is designed to confront the epidemic of substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) with evidence-based strategies that are targeted and tailored for maximum impact in Maine. A revision for 2021 is now underway to reposition the plan to address the effects of COVID-19. The Maine Director of Opioid Response oversees the plan, working collaboratively with state and local partners, and reports regularly on progress.

For more information on this initiative, contact Gordon Smith.

Opioid Response



GORDON SMITH

Director of Opioid Response
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Gordon is responsible for coordinating and directing Maine's response to the opioid crisis.

Before his appointment by Governor Mills as Director of Opioid Response, he served as Executive Vice President of the Maine Medical Association from 1993 to 2019.

Children's Cabinet



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Children's Cabinet

In her inaugural address, Governor Janet Mills announced her plan to reinstate the Maine's Children's Cabinet to improve the health and well-being of children in our state.

The Children's Cabinet has identified two overarching goals:

- All Maine children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed ([Click here for plan](#)).
- All Maine youth enter adulthood healthy, connected to the workforce and/or education ([Click here for plan](#)).

The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future is coordinating the work of Governor Mills' Children's Cabinet to align and strengthen programs and policies for young children and at-risk youth. The Children's Cabinet members are the Commissioners of five state agencies — Department of Corrections, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor, and Department of Public Safety — operating programs and policies for children. Maine's Chief Justice is also invited and participates in select Children's Cabinet meetings.

For more information about Governor Mills' Children's Cabinet, contact Ana Hicks.

Economic Recovery Committee

Throughout 2020, the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee engaged economic experts and industry representatives from across Maine to develop specific policy recommendations to grow the state's economy, sustain Maine's people, and build a bridge to future prosperity against the unprecedented economic disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on the [state's 10-year Economic Strategy](#) the committee produced a series of policy recommendations for Maine's economy in response to COVID-19, which provided the framework for allocations of Coronavirus Relief Funds, and highlighted the importance of long-term investments in innovation, broadband expansion, housing and childcare, and equity initiatives.



To read the Nov. 24, 2020 [Committee Recommendations to Sustain and Grow Maine's Economy](#)

To read the July 15, 2020 [Committee Report on Economic Support and Stabilization Recommendations](#).

For more information on this initiative, contact Maria Povec.

Workforce and Education



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For more information about GOPIF, priority initiatives and staff bios, please visit maine.gov/future