

Tax Abatement Reporting in Maine

*The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the professional organization that establishes standards of accounting and financial reporting for state and local governments. In 2015, GASB added "[Statement No. 77 on Tax Abatement Disclosures](#)" to its Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). GASB 77 requires most state and local governments (including school districts) to report tax abatement programs (if they have such a program/s) in their annual comprehensive financial reports (ACFRs), specifying the **amount of revenue reduced or foregone** as a result of these tax abatements programs. This new rule, GASB 77, allows the public to see how much public-service revenue is lost due to tax breaks given to corporations. This road map highlights key people and organizations involved in the implementation of GASB 77, the reporting status of jurisdictions in the state, and other information relevant to GASB 77 compliance in Maine.*

Who in state government is most likely to influence GASB 77 disclosure? State Auditor Matthew Dunlap.

Does the state's most recent ACFR include GASB 77 disclosure on state revenue losses? Yes.

How many counties, municipalities and school districts in the state are required to conform with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and therefore GASB Statements? According to GASB's [research brief](#) titled "State and Local Government Use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for General Purpose External Financial Reporting" (2008), all of Maine's cities, counties, and independent school districts are required by state law to use GAAP accounting.

Does state government monitor fiscal stress within county/municipality/school district? Maine [does not monitor local fiscal stress](#) but it does take action when it learns of it through other means.

Does the state government or do any academic/NGO institutions provide technical assistance on GAAP, GASB, or completing ACFRs? The State Controller used to provide advice on new GASB requirements, but has not done so [since 2013](#).

Which state office is responsible for completing state's ACFR? Maine Department of Administration and Financial Services, Office of the State Controller.

Which of the state’s five most populous counties, municipalities, and school districts reported GASB 77 disclosures [in the most recent ACFR available?](#)

Report Tax Abatements	Do Not Report Tax Abatements
City of Portland	City of Lewiston
City of Auburn	City of Bangor
	City of South Portland
	Cumberland County
	York County
	Penobscot County
	Kennebec County
	Androscoggin County
	Maine's school districts don't file independent ACFRs because they are component units

Is there a state office that collects Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFRs) from counties/cities/school districts? The State Auditor’s office [collects and posts audit statements and financial reports](#) from the state’s counties and municipalities. Local school districts file summary annual reports with the State’s Department of Education. These reports are not publicly posted.

Who commented on the GASB 77 Exposure Draft from Maine?

- [The Maine Center for Economic Policy](#) commented in favor of GASB 77 and asked that personal income tax diversion be included among mandated disclosures.
- Professor Orlando Delogu (University of Maine Law School) joined [47 other academic colleagues](#) in a comment broadly supportive of GASB 77.
- State Senators Rebecca Millett and Dave Miramant joined [60 other local public officials](#) in submitting a comment broadly supportive of GASB 77.

For more information on GASB 77, visit goodjobsfirst.org/tax-abatement-disclosures

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