



Maine Women's Lobby  
MWL Education Fund  
295 Water St., Suite 10  
Augusta, ME 04330  
[mainewomen.org](http://mainewomen.org)





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**2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

Maine Women's Lobby  
Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund





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## Letter from the Chairs

2019 was a year of transition, reflection, and growth for our organizations. In the spring we said thank you and farewell to our outgoing Executive Director. During the summer and fall we took time to dig deep, consider our future, and align the organizations' vision and priorities. Through this exciting and transformational work, we reaffirmed our feminist roots and committed to addressing the intersections of gender, race, and class discrimination. Through it all we have stayed connected to our missions: to advocate for legislative efforts to improve the lives of all who identify as women and girls in Maine, and to engage, inform, and connect Mainers

to feminist public policy solutions. We want to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff, volunteers, and board members who work tirelessly on behalf of Mainers and continue to center social justice throughout the work of the Maine Women's Lobby and MWL Education Fund. We also want to thank you for being a partner in this work with us.

Elizabeth Riotte  
2019 Maine Women's Lobby  
Board Chair

Andrea Berry  
2019 MWL Education Fund  
Board Chair



## **2019 Organization Staff**

### **Kathy Durgin-Leighton**

Interim Executive Director and Development Director

### **Whitney Parrish**

Policy and Program Director

### **Logan Mills**

Community Organizer and Office Coordinator

### **Maggie Clark**

Office Coordinator (through June)

### **Eliza Townsend**

Executive Director (through May)

### **Jey Sorkin**

Community Organizer (through April)

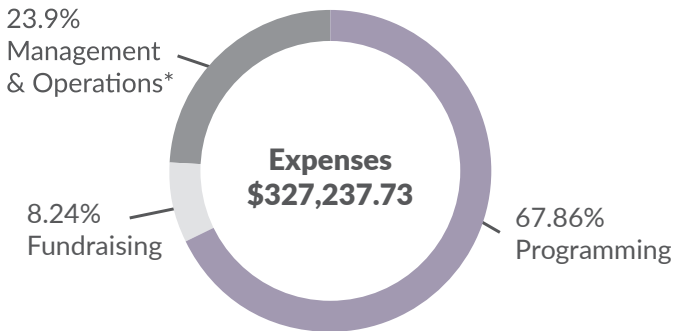
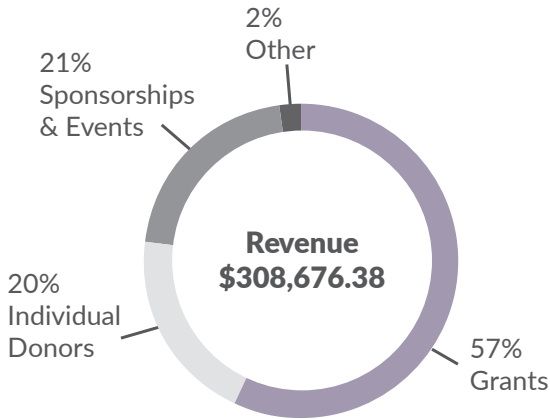
# 2019 MWL Education Fund

## Board of Directors

Andrea Berry, Chair  
Erin Cinelli, Treasurer  
Lauren Jacobs

Michelle Lamb  
Gretchen Johnson

## Financials



*\* Management & operations includes professional development, Board support and development, agency infrastructure and policies, and other efforts to ensure the organization is well-organized, informed, and effective.*

## Accomplishments

**Learn, Share, Lead.** 2019 was an opportunity to truly put the MWL Education Fund's motto into practice as we hosted events across the state to connect Mainers with education and information about the policies and systems that shape our lives. Continuing our effort to be more accessible, we went out to meet the community where they were, from the Common Ground Fair in Unity to the Women's March in Portland and everywhere in between! During 2019, our volunteer list grew by 280 members, making it easier than ever for our community to find opportunities to get involved.

For the 23rd year, 99 girls representing every county in Maine joined us for Girls' Day at the Statehouse for a day of mock hearings, discussions with female leaders, and debate on the floor of the House - with the help of over 30 volunteer mentors, lobbyists, and legislators. This was the first year that girls had a chance to take selfies with Maine's first female governor. One participant clearly articulated what we want for all members of our community: "Today I learned that my voice matters and I mean something."

The legendary civil rights activist Tarana Burke, founder of #MeToo,



joined Maine leaders and over 200 participants for #MaineToo: Summit on Women's Economic Security, which highlighted the intersections of sexual violence and harassment and women's economic security. It was also an opportunity to center the voices and experiences of women from marginalized communities in Maine, and to acknowledge the disproportionate impacts of both sexual violence and economic injustice on those communities. One participant shared that, "Bearing witness to Tarana Burke's speech exceeded my already high expectations. As a survivor those moments will stay with me for years to come."

A huge thank you to the Summit planning committee; Kimberly Simmons, Samaa Abdurraqib, Arabella Perez, and Andrea Berry.



## Supporters

We could not meet our mission without the many individuals, grant and foundation funders, and business and nonprofit partners who support our work. Thank you.

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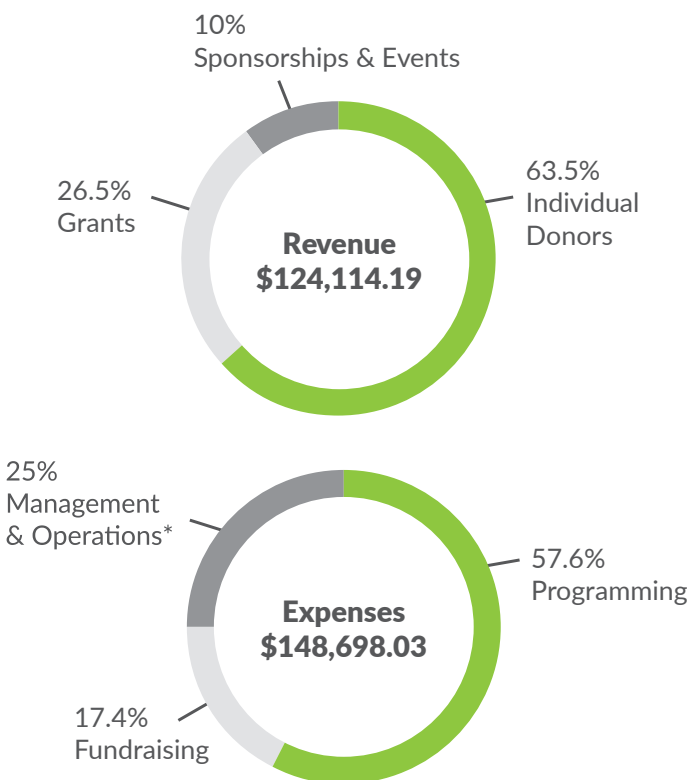
*“Bearing witness to  
Tarana Burke’s speech  
exceeded my already  
high expectations.  
As a survivor  
those moments  
will stay with me  
for years to come.”  
- #MaineToo Participant*

# 2019 Maine Women's Lobby

## Board of Directors

Elizabeth Riotte, Chair	Layne Gregory
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Connie Adler	Sally Struever
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## Financials



\* Management and Operations includes Board and staff support and development, agency infrastructure and policies, overhead, and other efforts to ensure the organization is well-organized, informed, and effective.

# Accomplishments

From health and safety to economic and reproductive justice, the Maine Women’s Lobby focused on a range of solutions-oriented legislation this session. At the center of this effort, we led the Maine Paid Leave Coalition in an effort to establish a system of paid family and medical leave in Maine (LD 1410, Sponsor: Speaker Gideon). This bill advanced to a hearing and work session and was carried over to the 2020 session. In addition to our coalition work on paid leave, a few of the bills we are most proud to have worked on include:

## Health and Wellness:

Ensuring that MaineCare and private insurance providers cover abortion care whenever prenatal care coverage is also available. This is a major victory that ensures more equity in abortion care access. (LD 820, Sponsor: Rep. McCreight)

Ensuring that Advanced Practice Clinicians such as nurse midwives and physician assistants can provide abortion care, in keeping with their training. (LD 1261, Sponsor: Speaker Gideon)

Allowing non-prescription drugs, such as Plan B and ibuprofen, to be available in vending machines. This is an important support for students, rural Mainers, and anyone who might

struggle to access certain care in their region. (LD 37, Sponsor: Rep. Terry)

Establishing a ban on conversion therapy for minors, a dangerous practice which harms LGBTQ+ youth. We were proud to work with a range of partners including EqualityMaine, ACLU Maine, and GLAAD. (LD 1025, Sponsor: Rep. Fecteau)

## Freedom from Discrimination and Economic Justice:

Establishing a requirement that employers with more than 10 employees ensure that employees can earn paid leave time - one hour of paid time for every 40 hours worked, up to 40 hours per year (there are some exemptions, and we continue to advocate for a full system of paid family and medical leave). (LD 369, Sponsor: Sen. Millett)

Creating a critical protection for pregnant people in any occupation to be able to access reasonable accommodations in their work. (LD 666, Sponsor: Rep. Carney)

Ensuring that employers cannot ask about a potential employee’s prior wage history, and classifies mandatory disclosure of wage history as discrimination under the Maine Human Rights Act. This helps protect

## Accomplishments (cont')

women, people of color, and other historically under-valued workers from future wage discrimination. (LD 278, Sponsor: Sen. Breen)

Establishing a permanent commission focused on creating equity and opportunity for racial, indigenous, and Maine Tribal populations in our state. We supported the Coalition on Racial Equity in this success. (LD 777, Sponsor: Rep. Talbot Ross)

### **Freedom from Violence:**

Extending the statute of limitations for certain sex crimes from 8 years to 20 years for victims 16 and older (many sex crimes against children under 16 already have no statute of limitations). We were proud to support the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault on this bill. (LD 67, Sponsor: Sen. Herbig)

Created a definition of economic abuse in the law and provides a way for the court to order compensation for losses resulting from economic abuse. We congratulate the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence for leading this effort. (LD 748, Sponsor: Rep. Fay)

***Our complete 2019  
Legislative Report -  
a summary of votes  
on a range of bills -  
is available at  
our website,  
[mainewomen.org](http://mainewomen.org).***

## Supporters

We could not meet our mission without the many individuals, grant and foundation funders, and business partners who support our work. Thank you.

### Donors and Members

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*Whitney, second from left, with members of the Coalition on Racial Equity at the signing of the bill to establish a permanent commission on racial and Tribal equity.*

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 Medical Center  
 Broadturn Farm  
 Hopewell Fund  
 Maine Initiatives  
 Penobscot Valley AAUW

## 2020: Looking Ahead

2019 was an opportunity to engage deeply with our community, consider our past and future, and chart our course for the years to come. In 2020 we will build on our commitment to feminist public policy advocacy through the Maine Women’s Lobby, and to promote education,

information, and engagement with feminist policy change through the MWL Education Fund - and doing all of our work with a commitment to anti-racism and anti-oppression. We cannot end misogyny and build equitable and just public systems without recognizing the many ways



that some Mainers are more harmed than others by our current systems. In 2020 and beyond, we will continue our work to close those gaps and build an equitable future for all Mainers.



***In 2020 and beyond,  
we will continue our work  
to close those gaps and  
build an equitable  
future for all Mainers.***