Maine Affordable Housing Coalition

2026 Housing Policy Conference
Agenda

Conference Webpage

MORNING PROGRAM

7:30 - 8:30 am

Registration, Breakfast & Exhibitor Visits

8:30 - 8:45 am

Welcome & Opening

Laura Mitchell, MAHC Executive Director
Jeff Dickinson, Lighthouse Credit Union, Presenting Sponsor

8:45 - 9:30 am

Opening Plenary Session:
State Housing Policies: What's Working & Where?

Salim Furth, Mercatus Center, George Mason University

9:35 - 10:30 am

State Legislative Panel

Moderator:
BJ McCollister, MAHC Policy Director & Frame Strategies

Panelists:
Rep. Amanda Collamore, Housing & Economic Development Committee
Sen. Chip Curry, Chair, Housing & Economic Development Committee

10:30 - 10:45 am

Coffee Break & Exhibitor Visits

10:45 - 11:25 am

Federal Housing Policy Update & Forecast

Introduction by Laura Reading, MAHC Board Chair & Developers Collaborative
Jennifer Schwartz, National Council of State Housing Agencies

11:30 am - 12:15 pm

Maine's Economic Horizon: Housing Outlook

Amanda Rector, Maine State Economist

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch

Presenting Sponsor

Lighthouse Credit Union

Hero Sponsor

Mascoma Bank

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

	MAIN STAGE SESSIONS *(Main Ballroom, downstairs)*	BREAKOUT ROOM SESSIONS *(Oxford/Somerset, upstairs)*
1:00 - 1:40 pm	**The Workforce Case for Housing** **Moderator:** Katie Shorey, Live + Work in Maine **Panelists:** Jackie Morgan, MaineHealth Jon Fitzgerald, Bath Iron Works Yellow Breen, Maine Development Foundation	**Homes for Maine's Older Adults** **Moderator:** Noël Bonam, AARP Maine **Panelists:** Katy Smith, Avesta Housing Joy Barresi Saucier, Aroostook Area Agency on Aging
1:45 - 2:30 pm	**The Freeport Turnaround** **Moderator:** John Egan, Avesta Housing **Panelists:** Matt Peters, Freeport Housing Trust Brett Richardson, Town of Freeport Steve Mills, Maine Beer Co. Tawni Whitney, Greater Freeport Chamber	**Asset Management Outlook** **Moderator:** Jennifer Hawkins, Avesta Housing **Panelists:** Sherrin Vail, Evernorth Heather Starzynski, NeighborWorks
2:30 - 2:45 pm	**Coffee Break & Exhibitor Visits**	
2:45 - 3:30 pm	**Philanthropy in Housing** **Moderator:** Alex Horowitz, The Pew Charitable Trusts **Panelists:** Nicole Witherbee, John T. Gorman Foundation Deborah Ellwood, Maine Community Foundation	**Build America, Buy America Impacts** **Moderator:** Laura Mitchell, MAHC **Panelists:** Todd Rothstein, Avesta Housing Conor Donnelly, DEW Construction Laura Reading, Developers Collaborative
3:30 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Plenary Session: Housing Policies for Maine** Alex Horowitz, The Pew Charitable Trusts	
4:00 - 5:00 pm	**Reception** *The Old Lounge*	

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