

## Governor of Maine: John Elias Baldacci

**Issue Area:** Local Leadership

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### **Summary:**

Governor Baldacci has been the governor of Maine since 2002. He has been elected and re-elected to represent the Second District of Maine in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000. During his time in Congress he worked for a balanced budget, a ban on lobbyist gifts, and campaign finance reform legislation. Also he is recognized throughout Maine as a civic servant who has worked hard legislatively for children, older adults, and small businesses. His dedication to these areas has been recognized with numerous awards and commemorations.

As governor of Maine, Baldacci has announced a state vision consisting of ten different topics ranging from arts and culture to Maine's economy. One of those ten categories is "Maine's Older Adults," which he has deemed, from input of Maine residents, to be one of the most important areas for improvement. He states his plan on his website: "Ultimately, successful aging policy needs to emerge out of a caring, inclusive, integrated, and community-building philosophy; one that appreciates the diversity of Maine's aging population and the resources that can be brought to bear in responding to an aging society. I will provide the leadership to enact such policy."



*Governor Baldacci*

To achieve his older adult vision, Baldacci is using several principles to guide his policy making. He plans to include older adult opinions as a critical direction for what the policies should pursue, to "stress creative community-based initiatives that engage local leaders in meeting elder needs and creating healthy communities for people of all ages." Lastly, Baldacci promises to pursue maximum coordination and cooperation between all providers to achieve superior performance in delivering services. These principles have concluded with several results in the shape of proposals;

- Appoint a Governor's Commission on Aging comprised predominantly of general citizens.

- Support a responsive, comprehensive plan for this decade that prepares all parties for the emerging challenges of our growing, aging population.
- Improve the State's long-term care system.
- Improve the housing situation for many elders through service-enriched senior living strategies.
- Promote a culture of respect for Maine's older citizens throughout the State's public policy system and in the broader community through the work of the governor's Council on Aging.

All of these proposed methods of action can be paid for with existing resources and untapped resources through federal programs for older adults. Governor Baldacci shows his local leadership by involving average residents in his planning process and listening to the advice of older adults.

### **Related Resources:**

“Meeting Maine's Older Adult Needs.” *Vision*. [Maine.gov](http://www.state.me.us/governor/baldacci/vision/older_adults.html).  
<[http://www.state.me.us/governor/baldacci/vision/older\\_adults.html](http://www.state.me.us/governor/baldacci/vision/older_adults.html)>.

O'Connor, Jen. “Maine Receives \$4 Million to Improve Health Care.” *Health Division*. [NGA Center for Best Practices](http://www.nga.org/center/frontAndCenter/1,1188,C_FRONT_CENTER%5ED_6137,00.html). November 13, 2003.  
<[http://www.nga.org/center/frontAndCenter/1,1188,C\\_FRONT\\_CENTER%5ED\\_6137,00.html](http://www.nga.org/center/frontAndCenter/1,1188,C_FRONT_CENTER%5ED_6137,00.html)>.

“Governor John Elias Baldacci.” [Maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/index.shtml).  
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