November 6, 2026

YAG and ME-dia

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The 2026 Maine Youth & Government Program Commences

Welcome to the 2026 Maine YMCA Youth and Government program! The program has officially commenced as of one o'clock this afternoon, beginning with the swearing in of this year's House of Representatives and Senate. Speeches were made by our 2026 youth governor, the Honorable David Shaw. Briefings on procedures were given by Mr. Ethan Brownell, and housekeeping, along with other remarks, were given by Director Lonney Steeves. Additional speeches were given by the Maine State Governor, the Honorable Janet T. Mills, and the governor elect, Hannah Pingree. We were very pleased to have these esteemed guests, and are even more pleased to have had an amazing start to the weekend!

Written By: Emily Gilbert, YAG Media Editor

Governor Janet Mills and Governor Elect Hannah Pingree Speak



Before the program commenced, the Maine Youth and Government program received a special visit from both current Maine State Governor Janet Mills and Governor Elect Hannah Pingree. "I'm very pleased as governor of the great state of Maine, for the next two months anyway, to welcome the Maine Youth and Government program back to the State House,." said Mills. Mills later continued to express her hopes for students in the program. "I hope that, like the students who came before you, you use this time to take on leadership roles and learn how government works." Mills then continued to give advice to students saying, "Watch your language. Make sure every word counts. That you say what you mean and mean what you say." As a final word to students Mills said, "Remember, however you work to further your own goals today, this year, next year, ten years from now, burn no bridges. Use words wisely. And be a leader. That's what I

encourage you to do in the years to come." Youth in Government members also heard from Governor Elect Hannah Pingree. "It's great to be here… I am just very, very excited to see every one of you here," said Pingree. She later continued, "I love this program. Again, huge congrats to the longtime leader and all the folks who have shown up." She continued by encouraging those in the program to follow aspirations of running for public office. "I encourage you all to eventually consider running for public office, because I think obviously you care enough to be here for the weekend." She continued, "Part of the reason I ran is I have two teenage kids who are 13 and 15 years old, and I think about them, and I think about all of you. I want Maine to be a state that is welcoming," said Pingree. Lastly, Pingree left Youth and Government members with a final piece of advice. "Again, no matter what sex you are, we need you involved. And thank you all for having me here today." Youth and Government is incredibly thankful to both Governor Janet Mills and Governor Elect Hannah Pingree for their time and thoughtful advice for students.



Written by: Wyatt Clegg, YAG Co-Editor Media

General Housekeeping:

Corrections made to room numbers: The Governor's office room 334, the Supreme Court, room 448, Media Office room 121, Agriculture Committee room 211. Appropriations room 208, Criminal Justice room 436, Education room 202. Health and Human Services room 437, Innovation Committee room 127. Natural Resources room 216, State and Local Government room 209, and Transportation room 126.

Social Media: The Youth & Government Instagram page is **@me.youthandgovernment**. Check there for updates, photos, videos, and a copy of the newspaper throughout the program!

Supreme Court Hearing Times:

Saturday:

- 10:00am - Bill#LD2026-306
    - (**An Act Relating To:** Self Defense in the Event of Unlawful Law Enforcement Action)
- 10:45am - Bill#LD2026-803
    - (**An Act Relating To:** Adding additional fees to excessive political advertising videos)

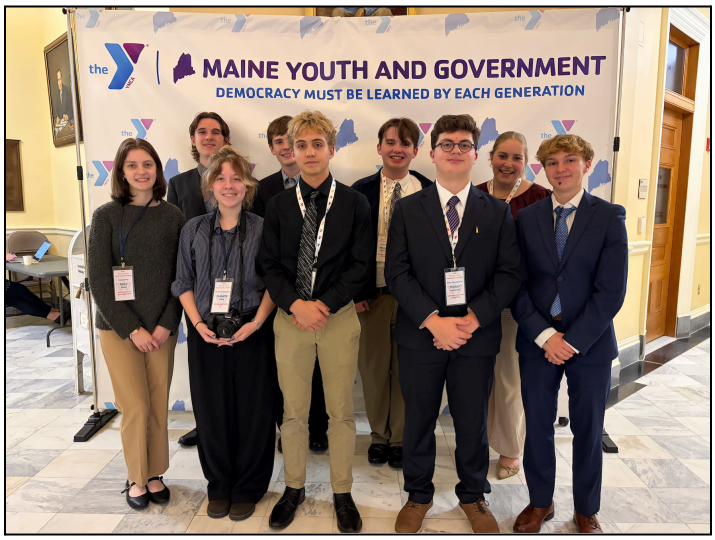
- 1:30pm - Bill#LD2026-404
    - (**An Act Relating To:** Mental Health and Safety for closeted LGBTQIA+ minors In Maine Public Schools.)
- 2:15pm - Bill#LD2026-312
    - (**An Act Relating To:** The implementation of firearm safety training in public schools)
- 3:00pm - Bill# LD2026-908
    - (**An Act Relating To:** Establishing a federal tax on the replacement of human employees with artificial intelligence.**)**
- 3:45pm - Bill# LD2026-512
    - (**An Act Relating To:** Legalize Abortion in the State of Maine in Any Circumstances)

Sunday:

- 9:00am - Bill#LD2026-809
    - (**An Act Relating To:** Prohibiting Political Signs from being placed in Public Right-of-Ways.)
- 9:45am - Bill#LD2026-502
    - (**An Act Relating To:** Individuals going undercover as patients in hospitals to be sure patients are being treated with care.)
- 10:30am - Bill#LD2026-608
    - (**An Act Relating To:** Getting the Free Hannaford Sugar Cookies Back.)

Meet the media team!

Meet members Sky Melvin, Parker Henschke, Isabelle Aden, Emily Gilbert, Maxwell Alexcovich, Riley Shean, Easton Allen, Jasai Marable, Wyatt Clegg, (and Brooke Allen, who's unfortunately absent from the photo). We're hard at work bringing life to the Youth and Government program by reporting on committees, taking photos, conducting interviews, running social media pages, and putting together this newspaper for you all. Next year, you too can apply to be a media writer, a photographer, or a media editor!



Written by: Wyatt Clegg YAG Co-Editor Media and Sky Melvin YAG Media Writer

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Photo Gallery



















