

WHY LEWISTON NEEDS A CHANGE

Five records-backed facts about crime, taxes, the needle exchange fight and City Hall accountability in Lewiston, Maine. Every figure below is dated and sourced — no estimates, no guesses.

PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes have climbed for two straight budget cycles.

The FY25 school budget carried roughly a 9% property-tax increase after two earlier, larger versions were voted down. The city side raised the rate again the next year.

Source: *The Maine Wire*, Jul. 2024 – *Lewiston Sun Journal*, Apr. 2025

POLICE STAFFING

The police department is short-staffed, and starting pay trails nearby cities.

Records show Lewiston police were down nine officers — a dozen counting medical leave — as of Aug. 2025. Starting pay lagged Saco, Biddeford, Scarborough and Bangor.

Source: *Lewiston Sun Journal*, Aug. 3, 2025

NEEDLE EXCHANGE

Residents forced a public vote after the Council wouldn't decide.

A citizen petition with 966 certified signatures pushed a one-for-one syringe limit onto the Nov. 2026 ballot after the Council voted 7-0 to punt the question to voters.

Source: *The Maine Wire*, Jul. 8, 2026

PUBLIC SAFETY

Repeat juvenile gun violence has the police chief warning of a breaking point.

Chief Carly Conley said Lewiston had recorded 15 shootings so far in 2026, nine involving juveniles, with some repeat offenders tied to as many as five separate incidents.

Source: *The Maine Wire*, May 28, 2026

ACCOUNTABILITY

Two councilors were censured for using disappearing messages to dodge public-records law.

The Council voted 6-0 to censure two members for communicating through an auto-delete app during an active investigation, finding it violated Maine's Freedom of Access Act.

Source: *WABI-TV*, Oct. 22, 2025

LEWISTON CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE.

Add your name and ask for transparency, safer streets and a government that answers to the people — at HoldLewistonAccountable.com.