A CBPP survey identified the degree to which states use the most effective tools to chart their fiscal course accurately and make corrections when needed. Maine’s score of 7.0 out of 10 on this survey gave it a ranking of 6th among the states.

For additional information see [full report](#).

### Which Tools Does Maine Use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map of the future?</td>
<td>Needs improvement (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credible projections?</td>
<td>Needs improvement (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying on course?</td>
<td>Well designed (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Map of the future?
- **Multi-year forecasts of revenues and spending**
  - Detailed and accessible projections of revenues and spending for at least five years into the future.
- **Fiscal Notes with Multi-Year Projections**
  - Fiscal notes that regularly include estimated savings or costs for the current year and for at least five years into the future.
- **Current services baselines**
  - An estimate of how much it will cost a state to continue to deliver the same quantity and quality of services to residents it is delivering currently.

#### Credible projections?
- **Independent consensus revenue forecast**
  - A formal mechanism to create consensus among the executive and legislative branches on a revenue forecast for upcoming years.
- **Legislative fiscal office**
  - The budget and other bills that require increased spending and revenues are reviewed and analyzed by a non-partisan fiscal agency.
- **Pension oversight**
  - Regular accessible reviews of methods used to determine future pension funding by independent authorities.

#### Staying on course?
- **Well-designed rainy day funds**
  - A reserve fund designated for situations where state revenues drop or expenditures increase unexpectedly that is funded adequately.
- **Oversight of tax expenditures**
  - Published information on the costs of tax expenditures and expiration dates after a set number of years.
- **Pension funding and debt level reviews**
  - Adequate pension contributions and oversight of investments as well as guidelines for the amount of debt that can be incurred.
- **Budget status reports**
  - Regular reports on revenue and spending projections in order to determine if the budget is on track.

**Total score: 7.0 (out of 10)**
How Maine Compares to the Rest
States vary widely in the use of fiscal planning tools. The figure below shows the sum of the scores for each of the ten tools for each state. The highest possible is 10.

Room for Improvement Across the Country
Sound budget planning is not a regional practice. In all parts of the country, some states are doing a good job while others need considerable improvement. The map below shows how Maine compares to its neighbors.