



# Support Clean Elections

*Lawmakers **must** take action to strengthen our landmark law*

## **The Maine Clean Election Act puts Maine voices and Maine citizens first. The MCEA:**

- ✓ Cuts connection between private money and public office
- ✓ Reduces the influence of wealthy and corporate interests in our government
- ✓ Was passed by Maine voters in 1996 and continues to be supported by more than three-quarters of Mainers
- ✓ Was used by more than 80% of legislators from all parties and unenrolled in 2010
- ✓ Creates opportunity for broad array of Mainers to run
- ✓ Keeps voters in control of their elections, not outside wealthy and corporate interests

**THE PROBLEM:** In June of 2011, the United States Supreme Court overturned Arizona's Clean Election matching funds system. With it fell Maine's matching funds, a part of our Clean Election program that allowed Clean Elections candidates to remain competitive when they were outspent by a privately funded opponent or independent expenditures. To remain a viable option for candidates, the Maine Clean Election Act must be amended.

## **Doing Nothing is Not an Option! It will:**

- ✓ Weaken our Clean Elections law and allow more special interest influence.
- ✓ Dramatically limit the appeal of the Clean Election option.
- ✓ Boost the role of political action committees (PACs) and increase the influence of special interests in Maine's elections.

## **To keep Clean Elections' strong, the legislature must:**

- ✓ Strengthen the Clean Election program to ensure that our state government works for all of us, not special interests and big money donors
- ✓ Honor the Maine voters who passed the law at the polls and continue to overwhelmingly support it
- ✓ Move forward, not backward to limit outside wealthy and corporate influence in Maine's policy
- ✓ Support the "requalifying option"/policy proposal recommended by the Ethics Commission and endorsed by MCCE and a broad array of Maine people.

## **The requalifying option:**

- ✓ Keeps Clean Elections strong and does not inject more private money into campaigns.
- ✓ Retains Clean Elections as a viable and attractive option to all legislative candidates.
- ✓ Is consistent with the original law that the voters passed.
- ✓ Allows candidates to be competitive with support from local voters.
- ✓ Maine-grown solution that continues Maine's legacy of having a government of, by and for the people.