



Maine Citizens for Clean Elections

News & Update

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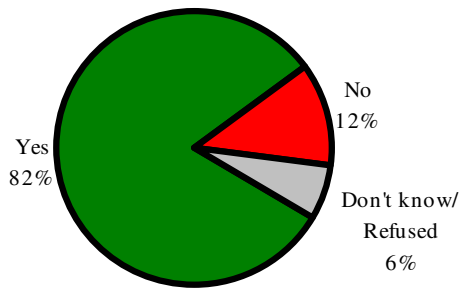
Ann Luther and Alison Smith, Co-Chairs

October 2008

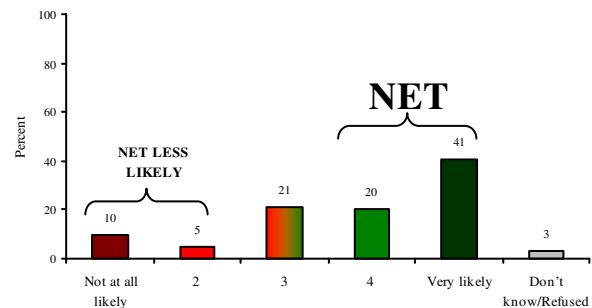
Maine Voters Affirm Support of Public Financing System

In a recent poll Maine voters affirmed their strong support for the state’s public financing system for gubernatorial candidates. When asked whether candidates for governor should use Maine’s Clean Election law, 82 percent of Maine voters polled said “Yes” and 61 percent said they would be “more likely” to vote for a candidate who participates in the program.

Do you think candidates for governor should use Maine’s Clean Elections law, which provides public campaign funds for candidates who agree to spending limits accept only small contributions from individuals?



Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for governor who participates in Maine’s Clean Elections program, which provides public campaign funds for candidates who agree to spending limits and swear off special interest contributions?



Click [here](#) to read MCCE’s full press release

Click [here](#) to read summary report of *Critical Insights Spring 2008 Tracking Survey*

Thank You to the 123rd Legislature for Strengthening Clean Elections

The 123rd legislative session made several important changes to the Clean Election Act, including a number of improvements to the gubernatorial system. Highlights include:

- **Restoration of Funds.** The supplemental budget included language to restore funds to the Clean Election Fund in time for the 2010 election, funds that had been previously “borrowed” to fund other state programs.
- **Higher Qualifying Bar.** The threshold for gubernatorial candidates was raised from 2,500 to 3,250 Qualifying Contributions – a 30 percent increase over 2006.
- **Ban on paying family members out of public funds.** Payments to household members from Clean Election funds are no longer allowed, with one very narrow exception. Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses is still allowed.
- **Enforcement.** The Ethics Commission gained additional tools to improve accountability and strengthen their ability to identify non-viable candidates.

- **On-line Collection of Qualifying Contributions.** Candidates may now collect Qualifying Contributions on the Internet.

In addition, the 123rd Legislature asked candidates to tighten their belts in this tough budget year, imposing a one-time cut of 5 percent to general election distributions to legislative candidates.

For more information, please contact MCCE Program Director Jill Ward at jmward@maine.rr.com or 317-6310.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections is a nonpartisan coalition of individuals and organizations that works in the public interest to defend and improve the Maine Clean Election Act and related campaign finance laws. Members include AARP, Common Cause Maine, League of Women Voters of Maine, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine Council of Churches, Maine People's Alliance/Maine People's Resource Center, Maine Women's Lobby, NAACP-Portland, and Peace Action Maine.