



Candidates for Governor Have Until April 1 to Come Clean

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Last week Republican Senator Peter Mills of Cornville became the first gubernatorial candidate to meet all the requirements under Maine's new and more stringent Clean Election law. His certification is pending.

To qualify for public financing, gubernatorial candidates must file a Declaration of Intent and then do some legwork: first, they must collect 3,250 individual donations (of \$5 or more) that goes directly to the Clean Elections Fund, and second, they must raise \$40,000 in seed money for their own campaign (but not exceed \$200,000). The money must be raised from registered Maine voters and submitted for verification by April 1.

Seven candidates for governor (out of the current field of 14) have declared their intent to pursue public financing.

In addition to Mills, Elizabeth Mitchell (D) and John Richardson (D) have also raised enough seed money to qualify, but they have not yet reported in, according to Paul Lavin at the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

Patrick McGowan (D), Christopher Cambron (Unaffiliated) and John Whitcomb (Unaffiliated) have also not reported in, according to Lavin.

Those running for Congress in Maine must also declare their intentions to run as a Clean Election candidate: candidates for State Representative must collect at least 60 qualifying contributions (not to exceed \$500) and candidates for State Senator must collect at least 175 qualifying contributions (not to exceed \$1,500) before April 21.

After being certified, Clean Election candidates receive an initial payment of public funds and are prohibited from accepting any private contributions - that includes a prohibition against putting their own personal money into the campaign.

Registered Maine voters can make an individual contribution to support a specific Clean Election candidate at www.maine.gov/ethics.