

How Do I Qualify?

1 File a Declaration of Intent

- ★ Let the Ethics Commission know that you intend to participate.
- ★ Complete, sign and have notarized a “Declaration of Intent” form.

2 Collect Qualifying Contributions

- ★ Ask friends and neighbors—or any other registered voter in your district—to show their support by giving a \$5 check or money order made out to the Clean Election Fund.
- ★ Collect at least 50 contributions for a House race and at least 150 for a Senate race between January 1 and April 15, 2004.
- ★ Have donors sign a simple form, and local registrars will validate the signatures, just as they do for your petitions.

3 Request Certification

- ★ On or before April 15, 2004, take the Qualifying Contributions to the Ethics Commission.
- ★ Include the signed, verified forms and an alphabetical list of your donors, along with a report of any seed money you’ve raised and spent.
- ★ Sign one final form, and you’re done!

And Once I’ve Qualified as a Clean Election Candidate?

How much funding will I receive, and when?

The Ethics Commission will release funds within three days of a candidate’s certification for the amounts below:

House:

• Uncontested Primary	\$456
• Contested Primary	\$1,374
• Uncontested General	\$1,613
• Contested General	\$4,023

Senate:

• Uncontested Primary	\$1,514
• Contested Primary	\$6,487
• Uncontested General	\$6,717
• Contested General	\$16,791

Will I get any more money from the Clean Election Fund?

If you are outspent by your opponents, you will automatically receive matching funds up to two times the amounts listed above. The Ethics Commission will closely monitor independent expenditures and your opponent’s fundraising to make sure you get your matching funds quickly.

Can I use other sources of funding?

Before you qualify, you may raise and spend limited Seed Money. After you qualify, the only money you may spend for your campaign is the money you get from the Clean Election Fund.

What is Seed Money?

To help get your campaign off the ground, you may accept Seed Money contributions from individual supporters (no PACs or corporations). Senate candidates may raise \$1,500 and House candidates may raise \$500, but each contribution is limited to \$100. No Seed Money can be raised or spent after you qualify.

May I spend my own money?

You may give \$100 to your campaign for Seed Money, but that’s it. The Clean Election system provides a level playing field—whether you’re affluent, low-income or somewhere in between.

What if the Clean Election Fund runs out of money?

Although the Clean Election Fund has been raided for over \$6.5 million to balance Maine’s budget deficits, there will be enough funding available for all candidates who want to participate in 2004.

Where do I sign up?

For all necessary forms, and for information about Maine’s campaign finance laws, contact:

*Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
Office: 242 State Street, Augusta • phone: 287-4179
Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0135*

It’s as easy as 1-2-3!



Maine's New System

Every candidate for Maine's House and Senate now has the opportunity to choose the Clean Election option to fund their campaigns. Instead of raising money from private interests, qualified candidates will receive public money from the Clean Election Fund. Choosing the Clean Election option will free you from the money chase and allow you to spend all of your time talking with voters in your district about the issues they are concerned about.

Why Should I Choose It?

- ★ **It's a popular system**, used by half of all legislative candidates in 2002 — incumbents, challengers, and open-seat candidates alike.
- ★ **It works!** Currently, 77% of Maine's Senators and 55% of Representatives won their races using the Clean Election option in 2002. 96% of all Clean Election candidates surveyed were very satisfied with the system.
- ★ **It's liberating.** You'll spend more time with voters and less time raising money.
- ★ **Clean Election matching-fund protections** mean that you will have adequate resources to run a competitive campaign anywhere in Maine. All of your money will come from the Clean Election Fund — up to **\$12,096** for a House race and **\$50,373** for a Senate race.
- ★ **Voters like it.** Maine voters participated enthusiastically in 2002, making over 25,000 qualifying contributions.

Clean Election Public Funding:
It's as easy as 1-2-3!

What's New In 2004?

- ★ **Enhanced Protection** for Clean Election candidates who face late negative ads or mailings.
- ★ **Sham Issue Ads Covered.** Thanks to overwhelming bipartisan support, new Maine law requires disclosure of independent "sham issue ads," and provides matching funds to targeted Clean Election candidates.
- ★ **Matching Funds Released right up to Election Day.** Ethics Commission staff will work the weekend before the election to ensure that Clean Election candidates will receive their matching funds in a timely fashion.

Come Learn More!

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections can provide a training session for you or your group. We also have copies of videos, *The Road to Clean Elections*, I & II in which Maine Clean Election candidates talk about their experiences. Please call Doug Clopp at 780-8657, ext. 5 to schedule a training or request a video.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections
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Using Maine's Public Funding System

is as easy as

1 2 3!



*The Clean Election
Option for Legislative
Candidates in 2004*

