



Legislative Update 2017: 6

Rapid Response Team
May 1, 2017

Welcome to the sixth edition of MCCE Action's Rapid Response Team Weekly Update!

We're catching up on two weeks' worth of news, and right off the bat, we have an action alert – LD300, the bill that would repeal Clean Elections for gubernatorial candidates is coming up for a vote TOMORROW. Please contact your legislator TODAY.

Last week on...

Last Wednesday, the Veterans and Legal Affairs committee voted on a number of campaign finance bills, including [LD1211: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Legislative Political Action Committees](#). This bill would ban legislators from controlling their own so-called 'leadership' PACs. We were very disappointed that the committee voted ought-not-to-pass by a 7-2 margin. When legislators maintain their own PACs, taking unlimited contributions from any source, it's a mockery of contribution limits, and ignores what Maine people want to see from their leaders. [See news coverage here](#). However, we were pleased that [LD126](#), a bill that would have cut funding to Clean Elections candidates, was voted Ought-Not-To-Pass.



A week ago, nearly 100 Mainers gathered for the Stronger Democracy Volunteer Summit. If you missed it, you can access some of the resources from our trainers [here](#).

P.S. Are you following MCCE on Instagram? We have lots of convention coverage and other fun stuff! Find us at @mainecleanelections

Coming this week

Tomorrow, **Tuesday May 2**, the Maine House of Representatives will vote on LD300. It's crucial that we defeat this bill, which goes against the will of Maine people.

[Contact your legislator today](#), and tell them to vote NO on LD300.



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- Voters have twice voted for a strong Clean Election law, including funding for legislative AND gubernatorial candidates.
- Mainers want and deserve a governor who works for voters, not one funded by wealthy special interests. Don't take this opportunity away and undermine what the people have said they want.
- Maine people voted by a 10-margin in 2015 to reinstate Clean Elections for gubernatorial candidates after the legislature suspended this voter-enacted law in 2013.
- Other states, including Arizona and Connecticut, have elected governors who used Clean Elections. Maine has had Republicans, Democrats, and others use Clean Elections for their gubernatorial bids.

Wednesday May 3 at 1pm, there will be work sessions and likely committee votes on Automatic Voter Registration and LD1033 (the bill to repeal 24-hour reports). If your representative or Senator is [on VLA](#), contact them and ask them to support LD1233 (AVR) and oppose LD1033.

You can see all the bills coming up before Veterans and Legal Affairs, and listen to live audio from hearings [here](#).

What can you do?

If you have...

5 minutes: Contact your legislators and tell them to vote NO on **LD300**. Find your legislators [here](#).

30 minutes: Write a Letter to the Editor in support of Ranked Choice Voting. With all the coverage about the solemn occasion, it is all the more important that positive messages about Ranked Choice Voting and the ways it will improve our elections and politics get into the public debate. [Click here to sign up to write a letter](#).

A few hours: Come lobby with us! [Join us May 11](#) – more info below.

Keep on your calendar

May 11 - Lobby Day!

With many bills heading for votes in front of the full legislature, and Clean Elections funding hanging in the balance, this is an important time to come to Augusta. Join us Thursday, May 11 at 9am in the State House Welcome Center. [RSVP here](#) so I can follow up with more information.



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It was fantastic to see many of you in Waterville (and Bar Harbor and Portland) last week. I'm inspired by your commitment to democracy!

Anna Kellar, Program Director

PS - If you had this message forwarded to you, and would like to receive Rapid Response Team messages in the future, you can [sign up here](#).

You're getting this email because you indicated you'd like to be informed about Clean Elections, Ranked Choice Voting and other democracy issues in front of the Maine legislature. If you'd like to opt-out of this email, you can [click here](#).