

Legislative Update 2017: 9

Rapid Response Team
May 22, 2017

Welcome to the 9th edition of MCCE Action's Rapid Response Team Weekly Update!

Let's start off with some good news! Despite what many of us feared, the US Supreme Court has refused to review a challenge to the soft-money ban in McCain-Feingold. Today a majority of justices were on the right side of history by upholding limits on how much billionaires can donate to political parties (see [statement](#) from the Campaign Legal Center). The decision highlights the importance of confirming judges and justices who believe the Constitution protects all of us, not just the wealthy and powerful.

Last week on...

You've been hearing a lot from me about LD300, which would strip the gubernatorial option from the Maine Clean Election Act. The House and the Senate are now in nonconcurrency on [LD 300](#), with the House insisting on Ought Not To Pass. This means that the bill is essentially dead.

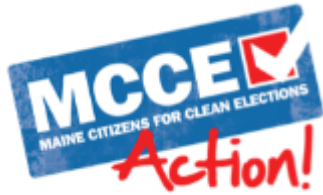
With that defensive battle nearly done, we are turning to ensuring full funding for Clean Elections. The governor's biennial budget underfunds Clean Elections for the 2018 elections. This is unacceptable and goes against the will of Maine people.

Thankfully, we have a chance to ensure full funding of Clean Elections for legislative and gubernatorial candidates with LD 1210, An Act Regarding the Maine Clean Election Fund. [We support this bill put forward by the Ethics Commission that would restore \\$1.7 million previously raided from the fund and advance \\$3 million from 2019 to 2018, ensuring adequate funding for both legislative and gubernatorial Clean Elections in 2018.](#)

On Thursday, LD 1210 passed the House in a 77 – 70 vote; all Democrats and independents were joined by Rep. Patrick Corey (R – Windham).

Coming this week

LD1210 will go to the Senate tomorrow, where its passage is crucial to upholding the will of Maine people.



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Another priority bill, LD413, which bans lobbyist contributions, could come up in the Senate this week as well. We'll keep you posted.

Also, it's been five weeks. We are STILL waiting for the Maine Supreme Judicial Court to issue its ruling on the Ranked Choice Voting solemn occasion. Hopefully, there will be news soon, and we can continue to push for implementation of that law!

What can you do?

If you have...

5 minutes: Contact your Senator and tell them to vote yes on 1211! 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: Join us for a phone bank! We need to get the word out to voters across the state that this is the time to contact their legislators. Let me know if you might be able to join us.

Keep on your calendar

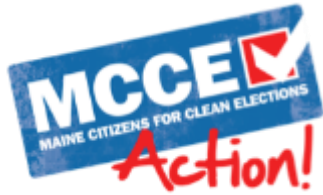
Meet Seth Waxman

**Founding Fathers Day 2017 | Reclaiming Our Democracy
A Conversation with Seth P. Waxman
Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission**

[RSVP](#)

**Sunday, June 18, 2017 | 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Hannaford Hall, University of Southern Maine**

About Seth P. Waxman: *Seth P. Waxman, one of the nation's premier Supreme Court advocates, was 41st Solicitor General of the United States from 1997 – 2001. In 2009, Waxman and (then) Solicitor General and (current) Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan argued for the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) and Senator John McCain in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission. He has delivered over 75 oral arguments in the US Supreme Court and won landmark rulings in a number of*



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cases including Boumediene v. Bush, McConnell v. FEC, and Roper v. Simmons.

Hope we'll see you there!

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](#).