

Legislative Update 2017: 7

Rapid Response Team
May 8, 2017

Welcome to the 7th edition of MCCE Action's Rapid Response Team Weekly Update!

Last week was a good week! The Maine House voted to keep Clean Elections for candidates for governor, and we defeated a couple of bills attacking Clean Elections.

Help keep the momentum up, [join us in Augusta this Thursday to lobby!](#)

Last week on...

Last Tuesday, in an 82 - 63 vote, the Maine House of Representatives voted "Ought Not To Pass" on LD 300: An Act To Preserve Funding for the Maine Clean Election Act by Removing Gubernatorial Candidates from Eligibility. [Four Republicans joined the Democrats and independents](#) to defeat the bill that would have eliminated the public financing option for gubernatorial candidates. Thanks especially go to Reps Corey, Bickford, Tuell and Stearns for respecting the will of Maine voters! The bill was tabled in the Senate Thursday; we expect a vote there tomorrow.

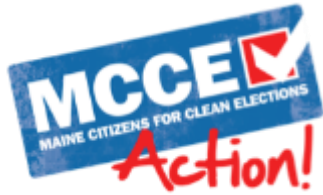
Also last week, the House and Senate both voted against [LD394](#), which would have changed the name of Clean Elections. We're glad to see another attack bill defeated.



Finally, [LD543](#), a bill that bans legislators from paying themselves out of a political action committee that they control has passed both houses 'under the hammer' (ie, with no roll call vote), and is headed to the governor's desk. We're working hard to ban legislator-controlled PACs (that's what [LD1211](#) would do – it hasn't had its floor vote yet) but we're celebrating every piece of progress toward that goal!

Coming this week

Tomorrow, **Tuesday May 9**, the Senate will vote on LD300. It's crucial that we defeat this bill, which goes against the will of Maine people. Call your senator today and tell them to support Clean Elections and vote against LD300! You can leave a message on the Senate line at [\(800\) 423-6900](#) and it will be delivered to their desk tomorrow.



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There are still a few bills being heard in the Veterans and Legal Affairs committee (this week, we're testifying on LD1561, an interesting bill that proposes a public financing option for ballot initiative campaigns). As we get closer to the end of the session, the committees are trying to wrap their business. We often have very little notice about when bills are headed for debate and votes on the floor of the House or the Senate, but I'll do my best to keep you updated about the most important bills!

We're also still waiting impatiently for the Maine Supreme Court to issue their advisory ruling on the solemn occasion on Ranked Choice Voting. Hopefully, there will be news on that front 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 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](#).

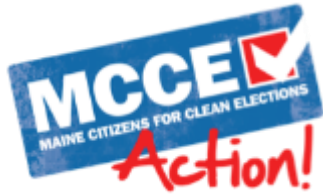
A few hours: Come lobby with us! [Join us May 11](#) – more info below.

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.

Anna Kellar, Program Director



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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](#).