

Legislative Update 2017: 11

**Rapid Response Team**  
June 12, 2017

Welcome to the 11th edition of MCCE Action's Rapid Response Team Weekly Update!

Wouldn't it be nice if we could just be at the beach all week? But not so fast! We have 10 days until the legislature adjourns, and with no budget agreement, and Ranked Choice Voting hanging in the balance, legislators – and the citizens who are fighting hard for our democracy – are still at work.

**Last week on...**

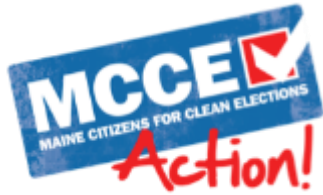
**Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)**

Two new RCV bills are moving forward: one introduced by Senator Cathy Breen (D-Falmouth) would [amend the constitution](#) to eliminate the obstacle to full implementation of RCV; the other introduced by Senator Garrett Mason (R-Lisbon) would [repeal the RCV law in total](#).

These two bills got their public hearing in the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee (VLA) on June 2, where public support was universally in favor of RCV. Last Friday the Committee held a work session on these bills, and we anticipate three-way divided reports from the committee on both bills.

Here's the bottom line:

- On [LD 1624](#), we support a constitution amendment to permit ranked choice voting in state elections. We expect a VLA committee amendment to that effect based on [League testimony](#), and once we have seen final language, we expect to endorse it.
- On [LD 1625](#), we strenuously oppose efforts to repeal the RCV law in total. We expect a VLA committee amendment, again based on [League testimony](#), to allow RCV to go forward in primary elections and in general elections for federal office, while suspending application of RCV to general elections for state offices until such time as we have a constitutional amendment to permit them. Once we have seen final language, we expect to endorse it. We strongly urge the legislature to amend the RCV law to allow implementation in 2018 for those elections that are permitted by the Supreme Court's advisory opinion.



## Legislative Update 2017: 11

Legislators pay attention to what their constituents have to say. [Find your legislators](#), call them, and voice your opinion about these priority bills that could move *to floor votes this week*.

### Clean Elections for Gubernatorial Candidates

It's all about the budget now. There is no unified budget proposal at this time. Full funding for Clean Elections is one of the items yet to be resolved. They need to have something on the Governor's desk by June 20 in order to avoid a shutdown. *This is the big one*. If [one of your legislators serves on the important Appropriations Committee](#), call them, and voice your opinion about the importance of Clean Elections. In fact, call your legislator even if they are not on the Appropriations Committee.

Legislators pay attention to what their constituents have to say. [Find your legislators](#), call them, and voice your opinion about full funding for Clean Elections.

### Coming this week

**...a budget (we hope)!**

**We're down to the crunch now. Clean Elections funding and the fate of RCV hang in the balance. Keep up the pressure!**

### What can you do?

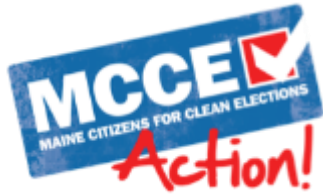
If you have...

15 minutes: Contact your Senator and Representative, and reinforce your support for Clean Elections and Ranked Choice Voting (you can find your legislators [here](#)). Is your lawmaker on Appropriations? Emphasize the need for full funding for Clean Elections in the budget! Emphasize your support for the amended LD1625 which preserves Ranked Choice Voting in federal races!

A few hours: Join us for a phone bank! Our final phone banks are happening this week, in Portland, Rockland and Belfast and we'd love to have you join us!

### Keep on your calendar

Meet Seth Waxman



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

[RSVP](#)

THIS 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 41<sup>st</sup> 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 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](#).*