



Legislative Update 2017: 8

**Rapid Response Team**  
May 15, 2017

Welcome to the 8th edition of MCCE Action's Rapid Response Team Weekly Update!

**Last week on...**

Thank you so much to everyone who came to Augusta last Thursday to lobby the legislature on Clean Elections funding. We got good information about where legislators stand, they got information about upcoming votes, and got to see that their constituents care. Democracy in action!

Unfortunately, last Tuesday, the Maine Senate, in a 17 - 16 vote, voted in favor of LD 300: An Act To Preserve Funding for the Maine Clean Election Act by Removing Gubernatorial Candidates from Eligibility. We were disappointed to see several supporters absent during the vote, and a Democrat voting with the Republicans against gubernatorial Clean Elections. Fortunately, the House has already rejected LD300, and will insist, almost certainly killing the bill. Before that happens, the Senate will have a second chance to vote the right way. As usual, [see how your Senator voted here](#) – thank them for voting (N) or express your disappointment if they voted (Y).

**Coming this week**

We are watching for several bills that we support coming in front of the full legislature – LD413, which bans lobbyist contributions, and LD1211, which bans leadership PACs. We're also working to defeat LD126, which cuts distributions to Clean Election candidates, and LD1033, which rolls back disclosure requirements for contributions made to candidates, PACs and ballot questions in the days before an election. As soon as we have word the votes are coming up, we'll let you know!

This is also the time when the budget starts to heat up, and the most important priority is to ensure we have full funding for Clean Elections, including for gubernatorial candidates. All legislators need to hear from their voters – follow the will of Maine people and fund the Ethics Commission's request for Clean Elections!



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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 lawmakers and tell them you want full funding of Clean Elections. 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 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.*



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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](#).**