



Dear 2016 Legislative Candidate:

Election season is fast approaching and Maine Citizens for Clean Elections wants you to have all the information you need regarding the public funding option available to your campaign.

In particular, we want to share information on the new supplemental funding opportunity and related changes in Maine law recently **approved by citizen initiative**.

We believe that you will find these changes **beneficial to your campaign**. Candidates using the public funding option will have sufficient funding to **compete even in highly-contested races** where another candidate raises and spends significant amounts of money. These changes promote **competitive, voter-centered campaigns**, allowing candidates to focus on the most rewarding part of running for office – speaking one-on-one with voters about the important issues facing Maine families and communities - instead of dialing for dollars or attending high-dollar fundraisers. Moreover, the results of the November vote show that the public supports Clean Elections as the best antidote to big money politics.

Candidates who have previously run for the legislature will find the system **familiar and easy to use**. The process of collecting qualifying contributions and applying for certification has not changed. The rules governing how Clean Election funds can be spent are also the same as in previous cycles.

Most candidates will be interested in these changes:

- Legislative candidate seed money is doubled from previous cycles. **House** candidates may raise **\$1,000 in seed money**, while **Senate** candidates may raise **\$3,000 in seed money**. Individual contribution limits and the criteria for eligible seed money contributors have not changed.
- General election distribution amounts for qualified candidates in contested races have increased slightly to **\$5,000** in House races and **\$20,000** in Senate races.
- Qualified candidates are eligible for supplemental funding upon submission of additional qualifying contributions. House candidates may earn up to **\$10,000 in additional funding**, and Senate candidates may earn an **additional \$40,000**.
- Candidates can **fine-tune their funding to meet their needs** by applying for one to eight additional allocations of funding for their campaigns. Each additional allocation for House candidates requires 15 qualifying contributions and is worth \$1,250. Each additional allocation for Senate candidates requires 45 qualifying contributions and is worth \$5,000.

Under a separate change enacted by the legislature with the support of MCCE, candidates who qualify for the Clean Election system in 2016 may not maintain their own PACs after April 1, 2016. We encourage you to contact the Ethics Commission for more information if this applies to you.

We have prepared the attached information sheet with additional details. We would be happy to speak with you or connect you with other helpful resources as you approach the upcoming campaign. Feel free to visit our website [[www.mainecelelections.org](http://www.mainecelelections.org)] for additional information, or contact us by calling 207-831-6223.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ANDY". The letters are stylized and slanted.

Andrew Bossie  
Executive Director