

Opinions

Page 10B, The Bridgton News, March 31, 2016

amounts. The point is that she used her time to fundraise her campaign outside Maine and did not fully engage in conversations with us, the voters here in town, about our issues.

The Clean Elections Initiative was placed on the ballot because hundreds of volunteers collected over 80,000 signatures from citizens all across Maine in all 16 counties. Maine voters passed the Clean Elections Initiative by a double-digit margin.

It is right and proper for Maine to continue to be in front of the idea that elections should not be tainted by large money donors outside the State of Maine. This is how it works. The Clean Elections law requires clean election candidates to go through a qualifying process where the candidate must ask the citizens in his or her district for support and collect \$5 qualifying contributions. Running as a clean elections candidate is not easy by design. It forces the candidate to meet with voters face to face and talk with them about what they care about. The majority of Mainers know that Clean Elections are good for Maine to keep our politicians accountable to the people who live here and not big special interests outside Maine. As a note of interest, at the time writing this letter almost 75% of the registered candidates filed intent to use public financing in the 2016 election cycle.

Clean elections?

To The Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter submitted by Representative Ginzler. I am gratified to read that she thinks a large number of small contributions helped her finance her campaign. I think Representative Ginzler missed the point. The Maine Ethics Commission public finance reports for the 2014 election year for Representative Ginzler list contributions in increments of \$100, \$275, and \$375 dollars from as far away as Florida, Wisconsin, Massachusetts and Virginia. I do not consider these small contribution

It is time to stop pretending that where you get your campaign money does not matter. It does matter and the voters know it all across the country. It is time the Maine Legislature follow the will of the voters and fully fund the new Clean Election law. It is time the Legislature stop raiding the fund, put the money back, and start talking with us, the voters here in town.

James Dayton
Harrison

yes for Clean Elections before the State Legislature follows the law?

Since 1996 Maine citizens have been at the forefront of the reducing the influence of money in our political system and government when they created a clean election program.

I for one am proud that Maine has a system that makes it possible for hard working, everyday people to run for elected office. It means our government really is of, by, and for the people of Maine, like our very own State Senator Hamper, who is a carpenter.

Last November the people of Maine voted overwhelming in support of our historic Clean Elections system for the second time! But guess what, now we learn that the legislature has repeatedly raided the clean elections fund to the tune of 9.8 million dollars. Failing to fund Clean Elections is an insult to Mainers who approved this program in 1996 and re-approved it just a few months ago. Put the money back and keep Maine safe from the corruption of money that is ruining the rest of our country.

Please contact our State Senator James Hamper and urge him to fully fund the Maine Clean Elections.

**James Dayton
Harrison**

Maine Clean Elections

Advertiser Democrat

To the Editor: 3/17/16

How many times do the people of Maine have to vote