

# BANGOR DAILY NEWS

## letters

### Nov. 22 Letters to the Editor

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#### Keep it clean

Thanks to Pat LaMarche for her Nov. 17 BDN column noting our celebration of Maine Clean Elections. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Clean Elections in Maine.

At the same time, we have a long way to go to address the problems of money in politics. In this year's legislative campaign in Maine, one out-of-state 527 organization opened a political action committee in Maine and dropped \$400,000 in the final week of the campaign to oppose five state Senate candidates, averaging \$80,000 in spending per race, where a typical Senate race might cost \$20,000.

An examination of funding sources shows this group raised more than \$62 million nationwide. Their donor list includes six-figure donations from big pharmaceutical, big agriculture, big oil, big tobacco, big insurance, big telecommunications, etc. While this spending was decried by both Republicans and Democrats in Maine, all the candidates targeted went down in defeat.

We hope the new majority will stand by their denunciations of this out-of-control spending and help work to reign in the wild West of PACs and return control of Maine elections to Maine people.

For people who are concerned about money in politics, and I believe Pat LaMarche is one of those, Maine-style public funding is a shining example of how citizens can push back against wealthy special interests.

Bill Moyers recently said, "The only way to defeat organized money is with organized people." That's what Maine people did when they passed the Maine Clean Election Act, and that's what it will take to push forward the additional reforms we urgently need.

**Crystal Canney**

**Maine Citizens for Clean Elections**

*Portland*