

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Aug. 20 Letters to the Editor

Keep it clean

In its Aug. 13 editorial, "Rethink Clean Elections," the BDN suggests that Mainers are rethinking the clean elections law. Which Mainers are you talking about? Not me. Lots of people like me think we need clean elections now more than ever.

And not just in legislative races. We need it in the governor's race, too. Maine has only one elected statewide office in state government. The governor is Maine's chief executive and has more power than any other elected official.

I want government to serve the interest of regular Maine people, not just rich people and corporations. Keeping special interest money out of gubernatorial campaigns can only help.

It's true that PACs spend money in campaigns for governor. That's true for the legislative races, too. Where don't PACs play a role in politics anymore? The answer is not to eliminate clean elections, but to push forward with PAC reforms.

Throwing out clean elections is like throwing out the baby with the bath water. And what does public funding for governor cost, anyway? Around \$1.50 per year per Maine voter and worth every dime.

The Maine Clean Election Act has had a small minority of diehard opponents from the beginning — they started working to overturn it the minute Maine voters passed it. These anti-reform forces have never rested. They've been busy in other states, and now they've come back to Maine to try again. Just because they filed a lawsuit doesn't mean that anything's new.

Maine people like me are still proud of our clean elections law.

Alan Vlach

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