



Monday meter

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THUMBS UP — Court affirms Maine law

On Tuesday, the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston rejected a motion for an emergency injunction to block the Maine Clean Election Act.

With Election Day being less than a month away, and numerous candidates on the ballot being Clean Election candidates, the three-judge panel responsibly concluded that an injunction at this late date would cause "considerable harm" and create "chaos" by changing the rules at the 11th hour.

"It's a good day when the appeals court stands with Maine people and the Clean Election system that we value so highly," Alison Smith, co-chairwoman of the Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, said in a release following the ruling. "The system works, so we are grateful that the court refused to upend the hundreds of Clean Election campaigns that are under way."

The appeals court's ruling clearly puts the public's interest first — as it should.

As the first state in the nation to pass a Clean Elections law, Maine has enjoyed 10 years of having elections in which publicly funded candidates can seek election without being beholden to private campaign donors.

Maine's law was found to be constitutional in a federal court challenge in 2000, but that didn't stop the plaintiffs, who originally filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Maine, from seeking to thwart the will of Mainers who overwhelmingly approve of the law and the positive effect it has had on our elections.

The appeals court judges rightly chose not to thwart the will of Maine voters.