

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Letter to the Editor

December 27, 2011

Clean works

When I read the Dec. 15 op-ed, [“State can’t afford welfare for politicians.”](#) by Reps. David Johnson and Doug Damon, I was saddened and dismayed to see that two recipients of Maine Clean Election Funds were calling the program “welfare for politicians” and attempting to dismantle what I consider to be a light in the darkness of political funding practices.

In 2006 I ran for the state House of Representatives. I was a retired teacher with limited resources and was thrilled to apply for and receive Clean Elections funds for my campaign. At that time, I needed to get 50 \$5 checks from 50 registered voters in the district. That meant that I had to go out to all six towns and meet face to face with people.

Before I was running I was getting to know the towns and meeting the people I was hoping would vote for me. These would be the very people I would be beholden to if elected, not some business or corporation from another district or area.

After receiving the funding I began campaigning in earnest “the old-fashioned“ way, without the worry of begging for money to compete with my opponent. My energies went into meeting citizens, finding out their concerns, researching policy and legislation, not asking strangers for money. I felt part of a democratic process.

I am proud to be from a state with the wisdom to have a process to make it possible to elect authentic citizen legislators. Please don’t “fix” something that works and is good for the citizens of Maine.

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