

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

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<http://bangordailynews.com/2011/10/23/opinion/letters/monday-oct-24-2011-occupy-wall-street-republican-candidates-and-clean-elections/>

Why go backwards?

I was appalled to read in the Oct. 19 BDN the article “Lawmakers consider fixes to Maine Clean Election law,” which reported that some lawmakers and the governor’s office believe that doing nothing is a reasonable solution. To “just leave it without a revised matching fund provision” surely would keep many candidates from running using Clean Elections, especially those in tough races.

As a voter and proud resident, I want candidates to run campaigns that are free of the influence that comes with accepting large private campaign contributions. I want my representatives to serve my neighbors and me, and not big donors.

We’ve had Clean Elections in Maine for over 10 years and most legislators use it. Why go backwards? Do we really want our state government to look more like the dysfunction and corruption that we see in D.C.? Do we want campaign contributions and legislative influence to go hand in hand? No.

Lawmakers in Augusta need to do their job and keep this Maine program strong. They need to put in place a sound alternative to replace the matching funds struck down by the Supreme Court.

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