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[Clean Election fund deserves taxpayer checkoff](#)

When I gear up to cast my ballot, nothing is more important to me than knowing where the candidates stand on issues I care about. Candidates should be out meeting with, listening to and talking with voters rather than dialing for dollars.

Maine's Clean Elections system allows just that; it allows candidates to get to know their constituents and hear about the problems that are affecting their families and businesses.

It allows people without a lot of money a fairer playing field, and keeps Maine's government "of, by and for the people."

I don't know about you, but I want candidates that are beholden to me -- not big money lobbyists and out-of-state interests. If you agree, check "yes" on line 1 of your Maine tax return (which doesn't raise your taxes).

Tracie Reed

Portland