

# Sun Journal

## [A look back at the week's news](#)

By Editorial Board

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About 80 percent of current legislators ran their recent campaigns using Clean Election Act funds, including 90 percent of the Republican caucus.

Of more interest is that every single newly seated senator was a Clean Election candidate.

According to Alison Smith, co-president of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, the numbers are an impressive demonstration of Maine Republicans using the Clean Elections Fund “pretty aggressively as a recruiting tool to get good candidates to run.”

Good.

Ten years after Clean Elections became part of Maine’s campaign landscape, the money is being used as intended. Working-class people are being funded by their fellow citizens and winning elections.

In addition to direct donations, the major funding mechanism for Clean Elections is the check-off box on the Maine income tax form. Taxpayers can “check” that they want to contribute to the fund. It does not affect the refund and the \$1 is not added to the total owed; the “check” is merely an indication of support to continue public funding for Clean Elections.

So, check off the box and contribute to citizen-funded campaigns.

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