

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Letter to the Editor

June 18, 2013

Defend clean elections

I am very disappointed in the [Legislature's actions to cut clean election funding in the next budget cycle](#). Raiding the voter-approved clean election fund to balance the budget at a time when special interest money is at all-time highs hurts the intention of Maine's clean election law.

Andrew Bossie, executive director for Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, gets it right in the June 10 BDN article, "[Budget deal would eliminate clean election funds in gubernatorial race.](#)" This is a far cry from what voters demanded in 1996 when we passed this law.

During the last election cycle, outside groups spent more than candidates themselves. For the past 17 years, the clean elections law has provided some protection from the influence of special interest money. We need to strengthen rather than weaken these laws. The people passed this law, and the people must stand up for and defend it

Trudy Ferland

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