

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Letter to the Editor

March 15, 2013

Money and elections

Gov. Paul LePage is trying once again to undermine the Clean Election Act, [as stated in the March 6 BDN editorial](#). The Legislature ought to heed the will of the people and fight back against this attempt.

In addition, lawmakers should not just insist on clean elections in their own races but for all state races, just as voters who endorsed clean elections at the polls in 1996 intended.

Since LePage took office, he has made several unsuccessful attempts to get rid of gubernatorial clean elections. He did manage to [double the amount of money](#) that privately funded candidates, like himself, can raise from wealthy people and moneyed interests.

Readers should know that the contribution limit for these candidates was set at \$500 in the 1996 citizen initiative. Today it is \$1,500 – triple what voters endorsed. That is per election, primary and general, so donors may give \$3,000 and couples, \$6,000.

The Clean Elections Act is one of the most successful and valuable programs that we have, and there are people all over the country who wish their state had it.

Its reliance on many tiny contributions from regular voters as opposed to four-digit donations from a tiny elite is one of its biggest strengths.

Bruce King

Bath