

# BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Letter to the Editor

March 10, 2013

## Clean elections in 2014

Gov. Paul LePage is wrong to undermine the state's popular Clean Election Act by slashing the budget. If he really wants Maine to put people before politics, then we must get the big money out of our elections.

Clean elections allow Mainers of ordinary means to run for office without dialing for dollars and engaging in the big money chase that has so sullied the election process. When we cut the connection between special interest money and public office, our elected leaders can make decisions in the public interest.

In addition, every budget decision should be made in the public interest. A strong clean election system will help to make sure that Maine gets its budget priorities straight. That's why our citizen-initiated law includes specific financing and calls for a special dedicated fund.

To really put people first, the governor and the Legislature must respect the people's will and make sure that adequate funds are available for clean elections in 2014 and beyond.

**Kristine Kittridge**

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