

# Portland Press Herald

May 7, 2013

Letters to the Editor

## Reader urges Mainers to support Clean Elections

This has been a huge couple of weeks for the movement to address the problem of money in politics.

Last week, we Mainers stood up and declared our intention to help overturn many key provisions of the notorious Citizens United ruling, becoming the 13th state to do so ("[Maine asks Congress to halt unlimited special interest campaign spending](#)," April 30).

I am extremely proud of our elected representatives, who have emerged in a rare demonstration of multipartisanship to reject the notion that money equals speech in our election system. And I am proud of us as voters, because despite reduced participation in the Clean Election program and record-shattering sums of money spent on privately funded races, we overwhelmingly elected Clean Election candidates in 2012.

This week, we have a chance to strengthen our own model Clean Election program and increase transparency in our legislative and gubernatorial elections with two bills in front of the Joint Standing Committee of Veterans and Legal Affairs.

One, introduced by a Republican, will replace the matching funds feature of the Clean Election program. The other, introduced by a Democrat, will address gaps in funding disclosures in Maine elections.

In a particularly rancorous and partisan atmosphere consumed by negativity emanating from the Blaine House, Maine lawmakers have stepped up in the name of positive change.

I, for one, am excited for the opportunity to encourage our elected officials to work with, rather than against, each other to restore the most democratic principle of a government by and for the people, not wealthy special interests.

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*Portland*