



Maine Clean Elections News

P.O. Box 18187, Portland, ME 04112

www.mainecelelections.org

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Last April, MCCE supporters learned advocacy skills at the Stronger Democracy convention

Maine Legislature Preserves Clean Elections and Ranked Choice Voting

From January to June of 2017 MCCE was active in Augusta, striving to further lock in the wins of the 2015 citizen initiative, push back on special interest money in other aspects of the campaign finance and lobbying systems in Maine, and defend against misguided, ill-conceived, and retrograde measures.

This was an unusually turbulent session of the Maine legislature. Now that the dust has settled, we have plenty to celebrate. All of the bills that would have weakened Clean Elections were defeated—in many cases with strong bipartisan votes. While the final budget compromise does not honor our demand for the return of \$1.7 million raided from the Clean Election Fund (out of over \$6.0 million raided over the years), it does

include the funding increase approved by voters in 2015. After some last-minute work by our State House team (and key allies), we also secured an early transfer of \$3 million needed for the 2018 election. Candidates and their supporters can rest assured that Clean Elections will be a viable option in the upcoming election.

We were disappointed with the legislature's failure to enact bills to ban legislator-controlled PACs and lobbyist contributions, as well as to establish Automatic Voter Registration in Maine. We will take the lessons learned from the session and continue to fight for these reforms.

On Ranked Choice Voting there is also room to celebrate. We supported a constitutional amendment to permit Ranked Choice

What's Coming Up for MCCE?

MCCE will always prioritize Clean Elections as the heart and soul of our mission. Our first-in-the-nation public financing law has allowed more diverse candidates to run for office by lowering the barrier of campaign fundraising. Clean Elections helps everyday citizens hold elected officials accountable to the voters—not the money-wielding lobbyists and political action committees.

While public funding is our core passion, our work has exposed us to a wide range of threats to our political system. In the coming year MCCE will continue reaching out to Mainers about issues that are emerging at this critical juncture in our political history. We will be talking with folks about maximizing free and secure access to the vote for all population groups in Maine; curtailing the power accumulated by special interest lobbyists through their contributions to so-called "leadership PACs" run by Augusta insiders; promptly implementing Ranked Choice Voting to fulfill the will of the people; and myriad issues relating to citizen initiatives and their role in establishing public policy in the state.

We will also be listening. We will meet with any group that would like to have a conversation about issues relating to the conduct of our democracy here in Maine. We thrive on your insights, opinions, and innovative ideas for making Maine officials more responsive to the people they are elected to serve.

As we work to set the course for MCCE in the coming year, we welcome your proposals for new ways to educate the public and engage with policymakers at any level.

convention (continues page 2)

Letter From John

Democracy is not a destination—it is a journey. It is not a commodity—it is a labor of love.

Those are the thoughts that occurred to me today as I returned to my current position as Maine Citizens for Clean Elections' interim Executive Director following a week spent in the Maine wilderness. I was feeling deep gratitude for the work of MCCE and for the support you and so many others have generously given over the past 21 years.

The past six months have been incredibly busy as MCCE continued our critical work protecting Maine's legacy of citizen democracy and fighting to reduce the role of money in state politics. We also expanded our focus to include Ranked Choice Voting and Automatic Voter Registration, and engaged everyday Mainers from York to

Presque Isle and from Oxford to Eastport.

We also said good-bye to our Executive Director and long-time champion Andrew Bossie. When Andrew arrived six years ago, MCCE was not much more than a group of committed volunteers with a common passion for democracy. Today we are recognized as one of the leading state-based campaign finance organizations in the country, and a powerful voice for democracy in Augusta and statewide. MCCE is widely regarded as lean but effective; principled but politically engaged. We thank Andrew for his many contributions to this cause and this organization.

Clean Elections has been important to me for many years. When I came to Maine in 1996 I immediately signed up to phone bank and distribute lawn signs for the initial Clean Elections campaign. Over the following

20 years I have enjoyed your comradery and learned a great deal about Maine's deep commitment to democracy. I have been uplifted by the sacrifices made by so many for the success of this mission, and inspired by your generous support of this organization year in and year out. We will do our utmost to continue to earn your trust and confidence.

I welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and comments at any time. Please email me directly at john@maineclipselections.org.

Thank you for accompanying MCCE on this important journey.

John Brautigam

Executive Director (interim)



convention

(from page 1)

Voting in state elections, complying with the issues raised by the state Supreme Court in its May Solemn Occasion decision. Unfortunately, the amendment fell short of the required two-thirds majority. However, the good news is that efforts to fully repeal Ranked Choice Voting also failed. With this outcome, the entire RCV law enacted by voters in the 2016 initiative remains in force, and the state will prepare for full implementation of the law for both the primaries and general election in 2018. It remains to be seen how and when the law will be reconciled with the Supreme Court's opinion on the constitutional issues.

Check out MCCE's legislative record (see back page) to learn more, and see how your lawmakers voted on these important issues. ■

MCCE in Action!



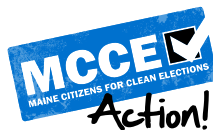
Seth P. Waxman discussed the Citizens United decision, which he argued in front of the Supreme Court.



MCCE interns Amanda Bennett and Jordan Morang talked to locals at Alfred Festival Day.



MCCE Action advocates for campaign finance laws, elections, and government that serve the public interest, both in principle and in practice. We support measures that increase fairness, inclusion, and opportunity in our politics and promote robust participation by Maine people in their government.



Maine Citizens for Clean Elections is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working to ensure that Maine's campaign finance laws, elections, and government serve the public interest, both in principle and in practice.

We engage Maine people from across the political spectrum, using research, education, and outreach to further fairness, inclusion, and opportunity in our politics.

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Support our work through payroll giving.**

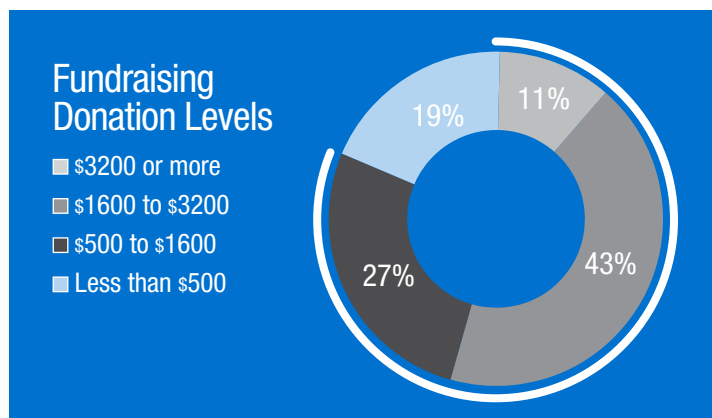
MaineShare



Big Donors Dominate Gubernatorial Fundraising

We are more than a year away from the 2018 gubernatorial election, but already candidates are dialing for dollars. MCCE research shows that more than \$386,000 has been raised as of August 14, the bulk by the two privately-financed candidates that had reported fundraising activity at that point. Thirteen gubernatorial candidates have registered their campaigns with the Ethics Commission.

The majority of contributions to the privately-financed candidates have come from large donors (see Fig 1). Donors can give a candidate up to \$1,600 for the primary and \$1,600 for the general election. 70% of the money raised so far has been in donations of \$1,600 or more – from donors who have ‘maxed out.’ Only 19% has come in increments under \$500 (including small contributions given to



Most contributions to gubernatorial candidates have been at or near the maximum allowed

candidates hoping to participate in Clean Elections).

By this point in 2013, \$969,964 had been raised by 6 candidates. That's partly because in the 2014 election, the Clean Elections system had been suspended, and candidates had no

choice but to use private funding. Thanks to the 2015 citizen initiative, and tireless volunteer efforts to advocate for the program, in 2017, five candidates are hoping to qualify for Clean Elections financing. Democrats Betsy Sweet and Patrick Eisen-

hart, independent Terry Hayes, and Green Independents Betsy Marsano and Jay Dresser have until April 2018 to qualify by collecting 3,200 \$5 contributions from Maine voters.

If successful, they will run their campaigns without any special interest contributions. They will receive an initial distribution of \$400,000 in funding for the primary, and if they go on to the general election, an additional \$600,000. If they continue to show support by collecting \$5 contributions, one or more of these candidates could qualify for up to \$3.2 million – all without incurring any obligation to special interests.

MCCE will be following the ongoing story of the role of public and private funding for all candidates in the 2018 election—look out for more in-depth reporting from us soon. ■

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED AT
mainecleanelections.org



Democracy Fellows Shine Light on Special Interest Money

This summer two of MCCE's Democracy Fellows interns learned how to analyze a candidate campaign or citizen initiative – and the forces behind them – by tracking campaign contributions. These college students contributed to MCCE's ongoing efforts to shine a light on the sources of private money in our democracy and the special interests behind those contributions.

Amanda Bennett came to MCCE from Bowdoin college, and has been examining the early financial reports for the 2018 governor's race, focusing on the newly released July semiannual financial reports. While the

election is still over a year away, fundraising by many candidates is well underway. Amanda determined that out-of-state interests have already donated over \$100,000 to gubernatorial candidates. This number will likely increase as the election nears.

Jordan Morang, attending the University of Florida, has explored the contributions of out-of-state casino interests. Jordan analyzed donations to the campaigns and PACs of both Democratic and Republican legislators, and predicts that donations will rise as the 2018 elections approach – especially a citizen initiative to create a third

casino. "This concerns me because outside organizations shouldn't spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in the hopes of swaying the vote to ensure profit for themselves," said Jordan.

Amanda and Jordan worked with Sadie McCurry, who continued with MCCE for part of the summer after being a Marion Holshouser intern this spring. We were delighted to welcome them as new activists and to deploy their talents to advance the work of protecting our democracy. ■

Clean Elections Legislative Record 2017



See how your Senator and Representative voted on important democracy reform issues during the 128th Legislature. We hope you use this record as a starting point for conversations with your lawmakers!

HOUSE

NAME	DISTRICT	TOWN	PARTY AFFILIATION	FINANCING	LOU-1	LOU-2	LOU-3	LOU-4	LOU-5
Ackley Kent	01	WINDHAM	U	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Alley Robert	02	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Austin Susan	03	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Bailey Dena	04	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bates Dillon	05	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Battista Kevin	06	FRANKLIN	U	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beebe-Carter Anna	07	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Berry Seth	08	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bickford Bruce	09	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Black Russell	10	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Blume Lydia	11	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bradstreet Richard	12	FRANKLIN	D	C	X	X	Y	Y	Y
Brooks Heidi	13	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bryant Mark	14	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Campbell Richard	15	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cardone Barbara	16	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N

Grohman Martin	01	WINDHAM	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Guarin Sherry	02	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Haggan David	03	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hamann Scott	04	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hardy James	05	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hamington Shelia	06	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Hanley Jeffrey	07	FRANKLIN	U	P	N	N	N	N	N
Harlow Dena	08	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Harrington Matthew	09	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Hartwell Lucas	10	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Hawkes Douglas	11	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Head Frances	12	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Herbig Kim	13	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Herrick Lloyd	14	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hickman Craig	15	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Higgins Norman	16	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Hillard Gary	17	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hogan George	18	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hubbell Debra	19	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hymanson Patricia	20	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Johansen Chris	21	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jorgensen Erik	22	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Kirney Maryanne	23	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Kirney Jonathan	24	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kornfield Victoria	25	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kumiega Walter	26	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lawrence Mark	27	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Lockman Lawrence	28	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Longstaff Thomas	29	FRANKLIN	D	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Luchini Louis	30	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Lyford Peter	31	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Madigan John	32	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Madigan Catherine	33	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Makely Richard	34	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Marean Donald	35	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Martin John	36	FRANKLIN	D	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Martin Robert	37	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Mason Gina	38	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mastraccio Anne Marie	39	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McCreary David	40	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McKnight Joyce	41	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
McIntire Carol	42	FRANKLIN	D	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
McLean Andrew	43	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Melancon Gina	44	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Shawna Paul	01	WINDHAM	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Shawna Joel	02	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Shawna Harold	03	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Shawna Scott	04	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Sutton Paula	05	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Sylvester Michael	06	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Talbot Ross Rachel	07	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tepler Denise	08	FRANKLIN	D	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Terry Maureen	09	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Therault Timothy	10	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Timberlake Jeffrey	11	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tipping Spitz Ryan	12	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tucker Ralph	13	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Tuall Will	14	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Turner Beth	15	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Vachon Karen	16	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Wadsworth Nathan	17	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Wallace Raymond	18	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Ward Karlene	19	FRANKLIN	D	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Warren Charlotte	20	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
White Austin	21	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Wisor Tom	22	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Wood Stephen	23	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zeigler Stanley	24	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

SENATE

NAME	DISTRICT	TOWN	PARTY AFFILIATION	FINANCING	LOU-1	LOU-2	LOU-3	LOU-4	LOU-5
Bellows Sherry	01	WINDHAM	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Berkley Eric	02	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Brown Carly	03	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Carpenter Michael	04	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Carson Browne	05	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chenette Justin	06	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chipman Benjamin	07	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Collins Ronald	08	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Cushing Andre	09	FRANKLIN	R	P	N	N	N	N	N
Cyrus Scott	10	FRANKLIN	R	C	N	N	N	N	N
Davis Paul	11	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Deschambault Sue	12	FRANKLIN	D	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Diamond Bill	13	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dill James	14	FRANKLIN	D	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

See how **your** Senator and Representative voted on important democracy reform issues during the 128th legislature. We hope you use this record as a starting point for conversation with your lawmakers!



Now available for
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- Maine Legislature Preserves Clean Elections and Ranked Choice Voting
- What's Coming Up for MCCE?
- Big Donors Dominate Gubernatorial Fundraising
- Democracy Fellows Shine Light on Special Interest Money

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