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## **Maine Citizens for Clean Elections Mark Anniversary of Citizens United *Urge Lawmakers to Carry Out Will of the Voters***

AUGUSTA – Mainers from across the state gathered together at the State House today for a press conference and lobby day urging lawmakers to respect the voters and fully implement and fund changes to the state’s Clean Election Act that were voted into law by Mainers with a double-digit margin of victory on Election Day in 2015.

“The voters have spoken. By a wide margin Democrats, Republicans, Greens and independents said loud and clear that they want a strong Clean Elections system, transparency and government accountability,” said Andrew Bossie, the Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. “Now it’s time for Maine’s elected leaders to listen and act by fully implementing and funding Clean Elections as the voters intended.”

The press conference was held on the sixth anniversary of the Supreme Court’s devastating *Citizens United* court ruling that opened the floodgates for big money in politics.

At the event speakers celebrated the successes Maine has seen since *Citizens United*. Most prominently they celebrated the successful passage of Question 1 on Nov. 3 that strengthened Maine’s Clean Election system and increased accountability and transparency in elections.

“Already, Maine is seeing an increased number of candidates running in 2016 using Clean Elections,” said Ann Luther, a board member of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. “According to recent filings, more than 60 percent of declared House candidates and 80 percent of declared Senate candidates are choosing to run using our strengthened Clean Elections system and free themselves to represent the



people they are running to serve – not wealthy special interests, corporations and lobbyists.”

The press conference also served as an opportunity to send a clear message to some lawmakers who have been threatening to ignore the will of the voters and block implementation and funding of the new law.

“Protecting our democracy here in the state of Maine should never, ever become a partisan issue,” said Jolene Lovejoy, a volunteer for Maine Citizens for Clean Elections and former Republican candidate for the State House. “And I am thankful to say that Maine on November 3<sup>rd</sup> by voting Yes on Question 1, the voters proved that it is not. Now it is time for Maine lawmakers to show that same commitment.”