



For Immediate Release
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Clean Election Reform Set to Become Law Dec. 23

AUGUSTA – Question 1 on the Nov. 3rd ballot, which will increase transparency and accountability in Maine elections and strengthen the state’s landmark Clean Election Act, is set to become law tomorrow, Dec. 23.

“Maine voters sent a message loud and clear when they passed Question 1 on Election Day,” said Andrew Bossie, the Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. “We want accountability, transparency and a strong Clean Election law so that candidates can run for office without depending on contributions from wealthy special interests and out-of-state donors. We demand a government of, by, and for everyday people.”

Question 1 passed by a double-digit margin on Nov. 3, earning 55 percent of the vote. With its passage, the strengthened Clean Election law will be in place for the 2016 election cycle.

“Since Election Day, we’ve heard from Democratic, Republican, Green and independent candidates from across the state that are eager to use the strengthened Clean Election law and make it clear to voters in their districts that they work for the people – not wealthy special interests,” said Bossie. “With Question 1 officially becoming law, we’re getting to work educating candidates about how they can use Clean Elections in the next election so we ensure a more true democracy.”

Question 1 reforms Maine’s laws by:

- **Strengthening Maine's Clean Election laws**, so that candidates have the opportunity to run competitive campaigns without being beholden to special interests and big money donors,
- **Increasing transparency** and disclosure by requiring special interest groups to list their top three donors on all political ads so that voters know right away who is trying to influence their vote.

- **Increasing accountability** by toughening penalties and fines for candidates and special interest groups that break our campaign finance laws so that politicians are accountable to the people – not wealthy special interests.
- **Restoring funding to the Clean Election Act**, from \$2 million to \$3 million per year, with a payment that must occur on or before January 1, 2016.
- **Directing the legislature to close wasteful corporate tax giveaways** to fund Maine's Clean Election Act.