



PRESS RELEASE

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Clean Election Candidates Succeed in Primary Elections

A majority of candidates using Clean Elections won contested races

PORTLAND – Tuesday’s primaries were the first to be held under the revised Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) approved by voters in November 2015. Although there were no supplemental funds in these primary races, other changes appear to have worked well.

Of the thirteen State House and State Senate primaries decided on June 14 that had candidates using different funding systems, 62% (eight of thirteen) were won by the Clean Election candidate. Fourteen races had only MCEA candidates, and three had only privately financed candidates.

“The results of Tuesday’s primary elections indicate that Clean Election candidates can be competitive when facing privately financed candidates, even when outspent,” said Andrew Bossie, Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections.

Of the ten contested State Senate primaries (6 Democratic, 4 Republican), six had at least one Clean Election candidate facing at least one privately financed candidate. Of those six races, four, or 67%, were won by the Clean Election candidate. These races included Republican contests in Washington and Aroostook counties and hotly contested Democratic primaries in Portland and Saco. In the other four Senate races, all candidates used Clean Election funding.

There were twenty contested State House primaries (11 Democrat, 9 Republican). Seven had at least one Clean Election candidate facing at least one privately financed candidate. Of those seven races, four, or 57% were won by the Clean Election candidate. Ten House races had only Clean Election candidates, and three had only privately financed candidates.

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