



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Andrew Bossie
(207) 899-9983 (Cell)

andrew@mainecleanelections.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 2, 2017

Bi-Partisan Majority in House Votes to Continue Gubernatorial Clean Elections Funding

AUGUSTA – [In an 82 - 63 vote, the Maine House of Representatives voted “Ought Not To Pass” on LD 300](#): An Act To Preserve Funding for the Maine Clean Election Act by Removing Gubernatorial Candidates from Eligibility. Four Republicans joined the Democrats and independents to defeat the bill that would have eliminated the public financing option for gubernatorial candidates.

“Mainers want and deserve a governor who works for voters, not one funded by wealthy special interests,” said Andrew Bossie, Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. **“We are grateful that a group of bipartisan Representatives have chosen to preserve a law that Mainers have repeatedly said they want. Now it’s time for the Legislature to fully fund Clean Elections in the budget for legislative and gubernatorial candidates.”**

Voters have twice voted at the polls for a strong Clean Election law, including funding for legislative and gubernatorial candidates. Maine people voted by a 10-margin in 2015 to reinstate Clean Elections for gubernatorial candidates after the legislature suspended this voter-enacted law in 2013. Other states, including Arizona and Connecticut, have elected governors from both parties who used Clean Elections. Maine has had Republicans, Democrats, and others use Clean Elections for their gubernatorial bids since the law became operational in 2000.

[Recent polling](#) commissioned by Maine Citizens for Clean Elections has shown that when presented with an unbiased explanation of the public funding program, 71% of respondents felt that gubernatorial candidates should be *required* to use (48%) or have the *option* to use Clean Elections to fund their run for governor.

The bill now heads to the Senate for a vote, which will most likely take place later this week.

###