



PRESS RELEASE

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Candidates for Governor Seek Clean Elections Qualification *Six Candidates Seek Qualification*

Candidates for Governor seeking to qualify for Clean Elections funding began collecting qualifying contributions Sunday, October 15th.

To date, six candidates (Republican Garrett Mason, Democrats Betsy Sweet and Patrick Eisenhart, Green Independents Jay Dresser and Betsy Marsano, and independent Terry Hayes) have declared their intention to seek Clean Elections funding.

To be eligible, a gubernatorial candidate must collect and submit a minimum of 3,200 valid qualifying contributions to the Ethics Commission by Monday, April 2, 2018. Qualifying contributions are donations of \$5 or more to the Maine Clean Election Fund from registered voters in the State of Maine.

“Mainers want and deserve a governor who works for the voters, not special interests,” said John Brautigam, Interim Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. “Once again, Maine voters of every political leaning will be able to support candidates who will put their interests first.”

Maine people voted by a 10-point margin in 2015 to reinstate Clean Elections for gubernatorial candidates after the legislature suspended this voter-enacted law in 2013. In the most recent session, the Maine Legislature rejected a bill that would have eliminated the program once again.

Since 2002, eight candidates have qualified for Clean Elections funding (four Republicans, two Green Independents, one Democrat, and one Independent). Other states, including Arizona and Connecticut, have elected governors from both major parties who used Clean Elections.

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.

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