



PRESS RELEASE

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Three Candidates for Governor Likely Qualify for Clean Elections *Republican, Democrat and independent will refuse special interest funds*

Augusta - Democrat Betsy Sweet and independent Terry Hayes yesterday submitted more than 3,200 \$5 qualifying contributions from registered voters to the Maine Ethics Commission. Terry Hayes submission has already been certified; Republican Garrett Mason had previously qualified for Clean Elections funding.

“We are pleased with the robust participation in Clean Elections,” said Anna Kellar, Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. “At a time when political consensus is hard to find, it is gratifying to see candidates across the spectrum using Clean Elections. Once again, Maine voters of every political leaning will be able to support candidates who will put their interests first.”

The 2018 election is the first to be held under the revised Maine Clean Election Act. 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. The referendum strengthened the Maine Clean Election Act and made it possible for Clean Elections candidates to remain competitive when facing high-spending privately-financed opponents.

In the most recent session, the Maine Legislature rejected a bill that would have eliminated the gubernatorial program once again. In March, the Legislature gave initial approval to LD1780, a bill to fully fund Clean Elections by returning \$700,000 of the funds raided by past legislatures. The bill now awaits additional consideration in the appropriations process.

More than 240 candidates for the House and Senate are seeking to use Clean Elections. Legislative candidates have until April 20 to submit their qualifying contributions.

“Candidates and voters have done their part. Now the legislature must ensure Clean Elections is fully funded,” added Kellar.