

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yes on Portland Question 2: Make Candidates Report Their Donors

Contact:
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Campaign Finance Transparency Advocates Call on all City of Portland Municipal Candidates to Report their Donors

Request they voluntarily comply with the 42-day pre-election report being voted on this November 6th.

Tuesday, Sep 18, 2018

Portland - Advocates supporting Portland Question 2 today called on candidates for municipal offices to voluntarily disclose their donors on the date that will be required if Question 2 is approved by Portland voters.

“We urge all candidates for City Council, School Board, and other municipal offices, to show their commitment to transparency and accountability by disclosing their donors on September 25th, 42 days before the election,” said Anna Kellar, Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections.

Currently, municipal candidates are required to disclose their donors 11 days before the election. However, by that time, many voters will have already cast early absentee ballots without the benefit of this information. Question 2 aims to fill this gap by making candidates also disclose their funders 42 days before the election. This additional report would match what state level candidates are required to file.

“Transparency is essential to building trust in elected officials. Voters rightfully want to know who funds the candidates asking for their vote. Question 2 will improve our elections by making sure that candidates disclose this information at the point when voters are making their decision,” said Scott Vonnegut, a member of the Transparency Portland Steering Committee.

Yes on Portland Question 2 has been endorsed by Maine Citizens for Clean Elections and the League of Women Voters of the Portland Area, and is led by Transparency Portland, a volunteer citizen steering committee concerned about the influence of money in our city’s elections. #####

September 18, 2018

Dear Portland Candidate,

Thank you for stepping up to run for office and serve our community!

This November, Portland voters will vote on a charter amendment that will add a campaign finance reporting requirement for candidates for municipal office. As you know, currently municipal candidates are required to disclose their donors 11 days before the election. However, by that time many voters

will have already cast early absentee ballots without the benefit of this information. Question 2 aims to fill this gap by mandating that candidates also disclose their funders 42 days before the election. This additional report would match reporting requirements for state level candidates.

In the spirit of transparency, we invite your support for passage of this ballot question. We hope you will demonstrate your support by disclosing contributions to your campaign made up to 49 days before the election (the period July 1 to September 18) by the reporting deadline of 42-days before the election (Tuesday September 25).

You can simply submit the attached reporting form to anna@mainecleanelections.org. All candidate finance reports, including this voluntary one, will be posted on the website of the League of Women Voters of Maine (a trusted, non-partisan organization).

Transparency is essential to building trust in elected officials. Voters rightfully want to know who funds the candidates asking for their vote. Thank you for demonstrating your commitment to transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,

Anna Kellar, Executive Director
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of behalf of
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