

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections

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Maine Voters Affirm Support of Public Financing System

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Portland, ME – Maine voters affirmed their strong support for the state's public financing system for gubernatorial candidates according to poll results released today by Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE).

When asked whether candidates for governor should use Maine's Clean Election law, 82 percent of Mainers polled said "Yes," and self-described "likely voters" were significantly more likely to support the law than those who do not typically vote. In addition, three-fifths of Maine residents said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for governor who participated in Maine's Clean Election program.

The Maine Clean Election Act is a citizen-initiated law which has been in effect since 2000. It provides limited public funding to qualified candidates for state offices who agree to limit their spending. More than seventy-five percent of current legislative candidates are using the Clean Election system.

"The poll shows that Maine people value their Clean Election system and the candidates who use it," said Alison Smith, co-chair of MCCE. "Legislative candidates understand this. Now, gubernatorial candidates can have the same confidence."

Poll results were commissioned by MCCE and compiled by Critical Insights as part of its Spring 2008 Tracking Survey. The survey reflects 602 telephone interviews with 92 percent of respondents identifying themselves as registered voters.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) is a nonpartisan coalition of groups and individuals that works in the public interest to defend and improve the Maine Clean Election Act and related campaign finance laws.

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