



## Maine Voters Show Strong Support for Clean Elections

*Poll says voters want candidates for Governor to use Maine's Clean Election program*

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**Portland, ME** –Maine voters have affirmed their strong support for the state’s first-in-the nation Clean Elections system. According to new poll results released today by Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE), three out of four Maine voters said they want candidates for governor to use Maine’s Clean Election law, and a majority say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who used the Clean Election system.

MCCE’s poll found that every major demographic group in Maine solidly favors Maine’s Clean Elections system which provides qualified candidates with a limited amount of public funding if they agree to take no large contributions and to curtail their total campaign spending. The citizen-initiated law has been in effect since 2000.

“The poll shows that Maine people value their Clean Election system and the candidates who use it,” said Alison Smith, co-chair of MCCE.

A majority of poll respondents said they do not think the Clean Election program should be cut in order to fund other state programs. “Unfortunately, many state programs were trimmed this year, including Clean Elections,” said Ann Luther, co-chair of MCCE. “We are hopeful that the legislature will enact other proposed changes to the Clean Elections program that cut costs and increase voluntary revenue, ensuring that the program will be viable for candidates in 2010.”

In 2008, eighty-five percent of current legislators used the Clean Election system. In the last gubernatorial election, several candidates used the system, but Governor Baldacci, the winning candidate, did not. The 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature rejected attempts to eliminate funding for the gubernatorial system, opting instead to strengthen the system to make it more viable. If pending legislation is enacted, gubernatorial candidates in 2010 will find it more difficult to qualify for public funds, but those who do will have adequate resources to run a competitive campaign.

Poll results were commissioned by MCCE and compiled by Critical Insights as part of its Spring 2009 Tracking Survey. The survey reflects 601 telephone interviews with 93 percent of respondents identifying themselves as registered voters.

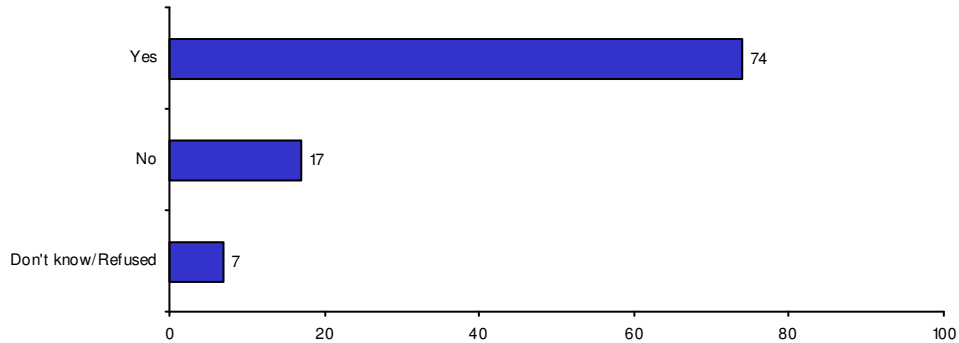
Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) is a nonpartisan coalition of groups and individuals that works in the public interest to defend and improve the Maine Clean Election Act and related campaign finance laws.



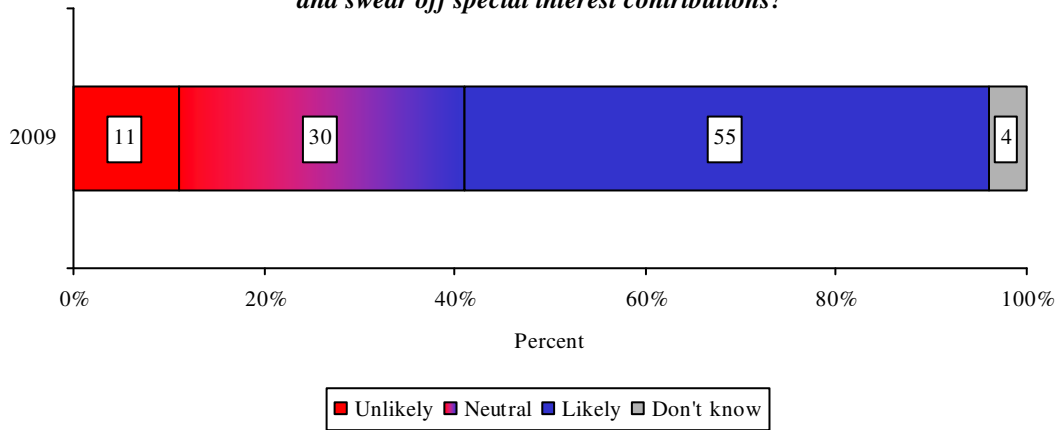
### Member Organizations

AARP Maine, Common Cause Maine, EqualityMaine, League of Women Voters of Maine, League of Young Voters, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine Council of Churches, Maine People’s Alliance/Maine People’s Resource Center, Maine Women’s Lobby, NAACP-Portland, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Peace Action Maine

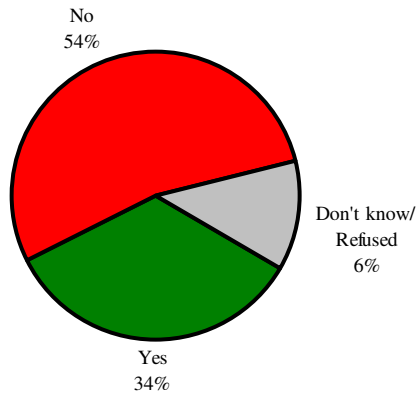
*Do you think candidates for governor should use Maine's Clean Election law, which provides public campaign funds for candidates who agree to spending limits and accept only small contributions from individuals?*



*Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for governor who participates in Maine's Clean Elections program, which provides public campaign funds for candidates who agree to spending limits and swear off special interest contributions?*



*Since 2000, Maine's Clean Election law has provided public campaign funds to candidates who agree to spending limits and who accept only small contributions from individuals. Do you support cutting the funding for Maine's Clean Election system in order to fund other government programs?*



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