



Contact: Canney Communications [crystal@canneycomm.com]

For Immediate Release 4.26.2010

3 Gubernatorial Candidates qualify for Maine Clean Elections Funds

With today's announcement that John Richardson is no longer seeking the office of Governor, three gubernatorial candidates have qualified for public funding under the Maine Clean Elections Act. Democratic Gubernatorial Candidates Elizabeth Mitchell and Patrick McGowan qualified two weeks ago, and Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Peter Mills qualified the week before that.

Richardson withdrew this morning after the Maine Governmental Ethics Commission sent a letter last week disallowing some of the \$5 dollar qualifying contributions Richardson's team turned in. Each candidate has to submit 3,250 \$5 dollar contributions which are verified by the Ethics Commission.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections co-chairs Ann Luther and Alison Smith said: "The check and balances in the system worked. Three candidates have qualified for public funding, and when the due diligence was completed it became clear that one candidate would not. The Ethics Commission did its job, and the protections built into the system worked exactly as designed."

Clean Election financing has been in effect since 2000. The law was tightened for the 2010 race to include a requirement to collect 3,250 \$5 contributions and \$40,000 in seed money from in-state donors with no more than \$100 to come from an individual.

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

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, NAACP Portland, Maine State Employees Association/SEIU Local 1989, Maine Women's Lobby, Peace Action Maine, Sierra Club Maine Chapter

