



CLEAN ELECTIONS TOUR KICKS OFF

20/10 Tour Celebrates 10 Years of Clean Elections

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(Sept. 9, 2010) - Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) kicked off a statewide tour this morning that aims to reach twenty Maine towns in the next two months. MCCE is celebrating ten years of Clean Elections by reconnecting with the people who made Clean Elections possible – Maine voters. The Tour will stop at Rotary Clubs and other community groups as well as local newspapers, radio stations and public access TV shows.

Speaking at today's press conference kickoff Representative Peggy Pendleton (D) told the crowd: "I was one of the first people to run using Clean Elections. I jumped at the opportunity then and I would do it again. As I told my constituents on the campaign trail - You are the only person I am obligated to now."

Jim Annis, a former Republican lawmaker from Dover-Foxcroft, also spoke about the importance of the Maine Clean Election Act. "Where I live, there are not many people candidates can ask for \$250. My constituents liked knowing that their \$5 Qualifying Contribution made my race possible," he said.

MCCE Co-presidents Ann Luther and Alison Smith both spoke at today's event. Luther, who represents the League of Women Voters of Maine, said, "Ten years ago the Maine Clean Election Act put voters in the driver's seat, and today the system is used by about 80% of Maine candidates across the state and in all parties. Candidates like it because it allows them to run better campaigns – campaigns that are focused on voters, not donors. And voters like it because they know their representatives will serve without ties to special interests. "

Smith talked about lawsuits that challenge Clean Elections. "We fought these challenges after voters passed Clean Elections, and the same out-of-state forces continue to try and undermine the law today. But in Maine, we don't believe that elections should be bought and sold by special interests. We believe in government of, by and for the people, and that's why we are fighting so hard to defend the Maine Clean Election Act."



Luther cited polls that show the popularity of campaign finance laws, including Clean Elections. “National polls show the same thing: Voters want what we have here in Maine,” she said. “Across America people are concerned about the influence of corporations on the electoral process.”

The 20/10 Tour will wrap up in Portland on November 18th with a 10th Anniversary Celebration. Details on that event are forthcoming.

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<http://www.maineckleanelections.org/>

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