MEDIA RELEASE
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Court Rejects Motion to Block Clean Elections

Judge George Singal yesterday denied the Motion for Temporary Restraining Order in Cushing v McKee. Plaintiffs had asked the Federal District Court to block the payment of matching funds to Clean Election candidates.

"We are heartened that the Court refused to interrupt the current election based on the thin claims put forth by Clean Election opponents," said Alison Smith, Co-chair of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. "It's a good day for Maine."

The decision was based on Judge Singal's finding that the First Circuit Court of Appeal's decision in 2000 to uphold the Clean Election matching funds program is still binding law. Although current lawsuits in other states that challenge similar provisions are making their way through the federal court system, the Judge found no reason to grant the extraordinary relief sought by the plaintiffs. From the decision:

> "Despite these interesting developments in other circuits, the First Circuit's holding in Daggett remains binding on this Court under the doctrine of *stare decisis*."

"That is certainly the view of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections," remarked Ann Luther, Co-chair of the nonpartisan organization. "These issues were thoroughly litigated a decade ago. The intervening years have only reinforced that Clean Elections, and its matching funds system, enhance the fundamental rights guaranteed under the First Amendment."

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