



Media Release

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Vast Majority of Maine Voters Support Clean Elections *New Poll Shows 8 in 10 Maine voters oppose its repeal*

As Governor LePage calls for devastating cuts to Clean Elections, new poll results show more than 80% of Maine people say it is important to have the citizen-initiated program in place.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) participated in Pan Atlantic's Spring Omnibus Poll to gauge support for the 10-year old Clean Election program.

"When 82% of Maine people agree that the Clean Election Act is important, the legislature and the governor should take notice," said Alison Smith, Co-president of MCCE. *"No matter how we slice the results and how we ask the question, the poll shows strong majority support."*

The change package eliminates Clean Election funding in future gubernatorial races, and it calls for a dramatic hike in the private contribution limit for gubernatorial candidates. In the Pan Atlantic poll, nearly 8 in 10 Maine voters rejected the idea of repealing Clean Elections in the race for governor.

"Using the budget process to slide in an enormous policy change is just plain wrong," said Ann Luther, Co-president of MCCE. *"This back-door attempt to get the big money back into Maine elections will not sit well with Maine voters who clearly prize our outstanding system."*

The poll asked a random sample of 401 Maine voters three questions about Clean Elections. The poll was conducted from April 25th through May 2nd. The full report is attached and can be downloaded at www.maineclipselections.org.

Jim Annis, a former Republican lawmaker from Dover-Foxcroft said, *"Mainers chose in 1996 to lead on this issue. They continue to indicate through this poll that they don't want wall street or big money donors running main street. People want a voice with their elected leaders and they don't feel those with the biggest wallet should be the final voice in the room."*

We call on Governor LePage, to listen to the people of Maine, to honor their will, and leave Clean Elections intact.

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