



GOVERNOR TAKES HANDS OFF CLEAN ELECTIONS

THREATS STILL LOOM IN THE LEGISLATURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2011 --- (Augusta, Me.) --- In a surprise move, Department of Administrative and Financial Services Commissioner Sawin Millett announced today that the Clean Elections initiatives which were part of the Governor's change package have been removed. The Governor's proposals would have created an enormous shortfall for the 2012 for the legislative elections, would have permanently repealed Clean Elections for gubernatorial candidates, and would have raised the private contribution limit for gubernatorial candidates by 333%. The Appropriations Committee has sent the issue back to the Veterans and Legal Affairs committee.

Ann Luther, Co-Chair of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections said: "This was the right thing to do. The changes proposed run counter to the will of Maine people, and they were major policy proposals that deserve a full policy debate, rather than being short-circuited through the budget process. However, we still face multiple bills in committee that propose to gut a system that works. Maine people want Clean Elections."

Earlier this week, MCCE released a poll showing 82% of Mainers believe it is important to have Clean Elections and 76% oppose full or partial repeal of the law. When the act passed 10 years ago, Mainers were 56% supportive and the support for the program has grown every year. Despite that, LD 659, which would repeal the Clean Election Act, is still being considered by the legislature. And, LD 120, which would repeal just the gubernatorial portion, is being considered in the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.