



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **MCCE Applauds Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee for Unanimously Defeating Partial Repeal of Clean Elections**

(Augusta) - Maine's leading citizen campaign finance reform organization today praised a committee decision that effectively kills a bill to repeal part of the popularly supported Maine Clean Election Act. The bill, LD 120 An Act to End Taxpayer-funded Campaigns for Gubernatorial Candidates, received a unanimous "Ought not to Pass" report from the legislature's Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

"Maine people want to move forward, not backward, in the fight against big-money, special interests in our government," said Alison Smith, President of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE). "The committee action preserves the opportunity for candidates for governor to run for office using Clean Elections. We still have work to do to ensure the system is viable in 2014, but today's vote allows the conversation to continue. At a time when people all across the country are calling for a separation between money and politics, Maine's ongoing leadership is more important than ever."

Today's vote comes a little more than a month after a majority on the VLA committee voted to strike the matching funds portion of the Maine Clean Election Act in order to comply with a court decision, but did not offer any alternative. MCCE supports the minority report endorsing a proposal recommended by the state's Ethics Commission in order to keep the system viable. "Maine citizens initiated and passed Clean Elections, and they continue to support the landmark system," said Andrew Bossie, Executive Director of MCCE, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization. "We are committed to strengthening the law after the court ruling, and we will work with legislators and fellow citizens to make sure Maine people benefit from a robust Clean Election system for both legislative and gubernatorial candidates. This is no time to invite special interests to dominate our elections."

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