



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Maine Citizens Unite Against *Citizens United***

***Mainers call for a U.S. constitutional amendment to restore the people's voice in our political system and push back on Governor's attempt to gut Clean Elections***

**Augusta** – Maine citizens from across the state will come together at the State House Welcome Center at 10:30am on Tuesday to mark the 3-year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v FEC*. The ruling struck down restrictions on corporate, union, and non-profit spending in elections and paved the way for unlimited spending to influence our elections.

“The *Citizens United* and other Supreme Court rulings have elevated the role outside special interest money in our election, while diminishing the voices of everyday people in Augusta and Washington,” said Andrew Bossie, Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. “Voters of all backgrounds are calling for a U.S. Constitutional Amendment that would allow us to regulate the raising and spending of campaign funds and to stop the unlimited flow of secret money into our democratic process. “

Maine citizens have embraced the idea of a constitutional amendment, successfully organizing to pass resolutions in towns large and small. Earlier this month, Camden became the 25th town in the state to pass a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment on campaign finance and there are currently efforts underway in Auburn, Brooklin, Brunswick, Friendship, Orono and Thomaston. Resolutions repudiating the *Citizens United* decision and calling on our national leaders to take action have been passed in cities, towns, and municipalities across the country and, to date, nine state legislatures have also gone on record in support of a constitutional amendment.

Participants on Tuesday will present the postcards to the Maine legislature and call on them to add Maine's voice to the growing list of Americans that want our national leaders to act. The group will present more than 11,000 postcards collected from Maine voters urging lawmakers to pass a resolution calling for a U.S. Constitutional Amendment that would allow us to regulate election money and ensure our government is accountable to people, not corporate and wealthy donors.

In the wake of the release of the Governor's biennial budget, participants will also call on the Maine Legislature to reject proposed elimination of the Maine's landmark Clean Election

system.

Governor Paul LePage's biennial budget proposes raiding the Clean Election Fund of \$4 million, which would leave no resources for legislative or gubernatorial candidates to utilize the popular voter-enacted program in 2014. "The governor's proposal to kill Clean Elections would ensure that big-money special interests further dominate our elections in 2014," said Bossie. "Maine citizens demanded Clean Elections to ensure that government is accountable to voters, not the highest bidding wealthy donors. This budget would return us to the time when lawmakers must ask lobbyists and outside corporate interests to fund their campaigns, giving these groups more power in Augusta," added Bossie. "Maine people want to move forward, not backward, with campaign finance reforms," he continued.

MCCE Program Director, BJ McCollister, urges Mainers to continue to demand an amendment and strengthening of our Clean Election laws. "This issue will not be resolved in the halls of Congress; this issue will be addressed when everyday people demand it." He urged Maine citizens to keep spreading the word, "You can continue this movement by talking to friends, neighbors, family and local elected officials. We must continue to demand a 'government of, by and for the people,' and that will happen through local action."

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