



For Immediate Release

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Clean Elections Day of Action is Saturday, August 23rd

Mainers are sharing their money in politics stories and gearing up to collect signatures

Portland, ME – From Presque Isle to Portland, Maine citizens are gearing up for the Clean Elections Day of Action this Saturday, August 23rd. People are getting ready to gather signatures for the Clean Elections Initiative by reflecting on what moves them to volunteer on this effort. Share Your Story is an online campaign to increase awareness about the price citizens pay when money dominates politics and elections. Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) launched the project to give voice to concerns about the role money in politics plays in our every day lives.

“Democrat, Republican, Green, Independent, political activist, or apolitical, it doesn't matter. When big money calls the shots in politics, we all lose,” said Andrew Bossie, Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. “Maine citizens from all walks of life pay the price when big money calls the shots in Augusta, and that’s why we are fighting back with a Citizens Initiative that will strengthen Clean Elections, disclose dark money, close loopholes, and elevate the voices of voters in our government.”

Using the hashtag #cleelectionssupporter, a diverse array of Mainers have already shared their stories on Facebook and Twitter. From a young Portland environmental activist concerned about toxins to an aspiring nurse in Presque Isle who had to defer schooling because of the high cost of tuition, to a brain cancer survivor worried about companies that fail to disclose potential harm from cell phone radiation, Maine people are clear on the adverse effects that result when special interest money dominates elections and government. MCCE has launched Share Your Story to raise awareness and build support for this weekend’s Day of Action, when volunteers will engage voters and collect thousands of signatures for the Clean Elections Initiative.

MCCE Program Director, BJ McCollister, shares in his story, “Growing up, my mother taught me a valuable lesson: never give up the fight to give others a voice. My drive to help people led me to work on health care reform. But, as I listened to heartbreaking stories from people struggling to stay healthy, Anthem spent millions of dollars a day to defeat access to quality, affordable health care. I was disheartened. When my mother unexpectedly died from a heart attack at the age of 54, my world came to a screeching halt, and I questioned my own purpose. That deeply personal experience brought me to Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. My mother believed—in democracy and in life – that we must fight so that everyone has a voice. At the end of every day at MCCE, I feel like I have truly honored my mom.”

“We all have stories to share about what happens when big money calls the shots in government,” said Bossie. “Share Your Story gives voice to all Mainers with a story to tell, and we invite everyone to participate simply by using the hashtag #cleelectionssupporter.” He concluded, “On August 23rd, the Clean Elections Day of Action, we will share our stories with thousands of Mainers as we hit the streets from Portland to Presque Isle. That is fitting, since Clean Elections is all about making sure every voice is heard.”

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