



PRESS RELEASE
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Bill Banning Corporate Contributions in Maine Elections Becomes Law

Representatives should listen to Maine voters and not corporate special interests

[PORTLAND, ME] — The Maine Legislature has passed [LD 1417](#), a ban on corporate contributions to candidates and leadership PACs. The bill, sponsored by Senator Louis Luchini of Ellsworth, and [championed and supported](#) by Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE), now awaits the signature of Governor Mills to become law. Maine joins [22 other states](#) that prohibit corporate contributions to political campaigns.

“Mainers deserve to know that our elected officials are serving us, the voters, not corporate campaign donors. When LD1417 becomes law, we will be one step closer to a government that truly represents the people” **said Anna Kellar, Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections.**

The definition of “corporation” includes for-profit companies, partnerships, business, non-profit organizations, and professional associations. Labor unions would also be prohibited from making these contributions. The bill would take effect in 2023.

Corporations and other business arrangements are legal entities that receive favorable tax treatment and other protections that allow them to accumulate capital, reinvest in their business, and generate profits for their owners and shareholders. Corporate contributions can distort the legislative process — and the economy. Large corporations use political contributions to tip the playing field in their favor in ways that small businesses and individuals cannot. The bill does not prevent owners, employees, and shareholders from participating politically, but the corporate entities themselves will not be able to use the capital they have generated under special protections to influence the political process directly.

“Getting money out of our politics and our government is essential to ensuring that the Maine Legislature remains a governing body of citizens and a governing body that works for its citizens. Banning corporate contribution to candidates makes it clear that our democracy is not for sale,” **said Senate President Troy Jackson, D-Allagash.** “By limiting the amount of money flowing into our campaigns, working Maine people can have confidence in their government and elected officials. This is a huge win for Maine.”

"In the years since the Citizens United court decision, Maine has taken steps to strengthen campaign finance reform laws and improve transparency. We've passed laws to tighten the rules around Political Action Committees to ensure lawmakers aren't profiting off PACs. We've put limits on when lawmakers can serve as registered lobbyists," **said Sen. Louie Luchini, D-Ellsworth.** "This bill to prohibit corporate contributions to political candidates is the logical next step."

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working to ensure that Maine's campaign finance laws, elections, and government serve the public interest, both in principle and in practice. We engage Maine people from across the political spectrum, using research, education, and outreach to further fairness, inclusion, and opportunity in our politics.

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