



Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

LD 11 – An Act Regarding the Acceptance of Maine Clean Election Act Campaign
Contributions on State Websites

January 30, 2019

Senator Luchini, Representative Schneck, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Veterans and Legal Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on LD 11 – An Act Regarding the Acceptance of Maine
Clean Election Act Campaign Contributions on State Websites.

My name is Anna Kellar. I am the Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. We
testify in opposition to LD11.

The Maine Clean Elections Act has twice been approved at ballot by the people of Maine. The
first time was in 1996. In that year, DVDs had just been invented, the Macarena was wildly
popular - and fewer than 20% of Mainers had an internet subscription.

Clean Elections' mandate was renewed in 2015. By then, 80% of Mainers had internet access at
home. Clean Elections is just as relevant as ever, but the systems that support the law have
reasonably changed with the times - including the online contribution system, which has been in
place since 2007.

An online system for qualifying contributions is a convenience to voters, who otherwise must
write a check or a money order. It also saves time for town clerks by reducing the number of
qualifying contributions that must manually be checked against the voter rolls.

Clean Elections candidates agree to many restrictions in return for public funding for their
campaigns. LD 11 would put Clean Election candidates at an unnecessary disadvantage and is a
solution in search of a problem that simply doesn't exist.

The current system ensures the principle of Clean Elections works in practice for voters,
candidates and election officials. There is no reason to go back to the 20th century.