



**TO:** The Honorable Senator Nancy B. Sullivan, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Representative Pamela Jabar Trinward, House Chair  
The Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

**DATE:** March 30, 2009

**RE:** LD 921, "An Act To Eliminate Maine Clean Election Act Funding for Gubernatorial Candidates," Senator Davis, sponsor

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**Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) opposes LD 921.**

The Maine Clean Election Act is a popular and successful citizen-initiated law that has been in effect since 2000. The public funding option for qualified gubernatorial candidates is an integral part of the system that was endorsed by more than 320,000 voters in 1996. Another important part of the original law is the funding mechanism. If the funding scheme that was approved by voters had been respected over the years, there would be ample funds in the Maine Clean Election Fund for the 2010 legislative and gubernatorial races.

The attached summary shows the result of public opinion polling concerning the use of public funding in gubernatorial campaigns. Less than a year ago, 82% of likely voters said they thought gubernatorial candidates should use the Clean Election system, and more than 60% said they were more likely to vote for a gubernatorial candidate who opted in to the system.

Eliminating the gubernatorial public funding option would be, quite simply, a slap in the face to Maine voters who have time and time again affirmed their support for the Maine Clean Election system.

We urge a unanimous "Ought Not to Pass" vote on LD 921.

Thank you.

Alison Smith, Co-Chair      879-7440

**Member Organizations**

AARP Maine, Common Cause Maine, EqualityMaine, League of Women Voters of Maine, League of Young Voters, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine Council of Churches, Maine People's Alliance/Maine People's Resource Center, Maine Women's Lobby, NAACP-Portland, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Peace Action Maine