

MONEY IN POLITICS PROJECT

REPORT #13

Clean Election
Participation
Rates and
Outcomes:

2014 Legislative Elections



MONEY IN POLITICS PROJECT

The *Money in Politics Project* is a program of **Maine Citizens for Clean Elections**, a nonpartisan organization that has been working in the public interest to advocate for, increase public support for, defend, and improve the Maine Clean Election Act and related campaign finance law since 1995. MCCE is a 501(c)(3) organization. www.MaineCleanElections.org

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Clean Election Participation Rates and Outcomes

2014 Legislative Elections

Overview

The Maine Clean Election Act underwent significant changes in recent years, including court decisions and actions by the legislature, that have prevented the MCEA from functioning as intended. The most significant change is that publicly funded candidates are no longer able to receive matching funds.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections analyzed those changes following the 2012 legislative elections and published our report entitled “2012 Legislative Elections: An Analysis of Clean Election Participation and Outcomes.”

Now that the 2014 legislative election cycle has concluded, MCCE is continuing to assess the trends identified in 2012, revisiting the question of how candidates are using the Clean Election program and identifying noteworthy changes in candidate participation and success. This report is part of MCCE’s ongoing efforts to analyze the Clean Elections program and educate the public about significant campaign finance issues in Maine.

This report is especially timely, as citizens have initiated a new effort to repair the damage done to the Maine Clean Election Act.

That initiative is now moving toward a ballot referendum.

MCCE will publish additional reports in this series once final candidate financial reports are filed, analyzing legislative and gubernatorial candidate fundraising and expenditures.

The information included in this report was obtained from the public web pages of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices and the Office of the Secretary of State.

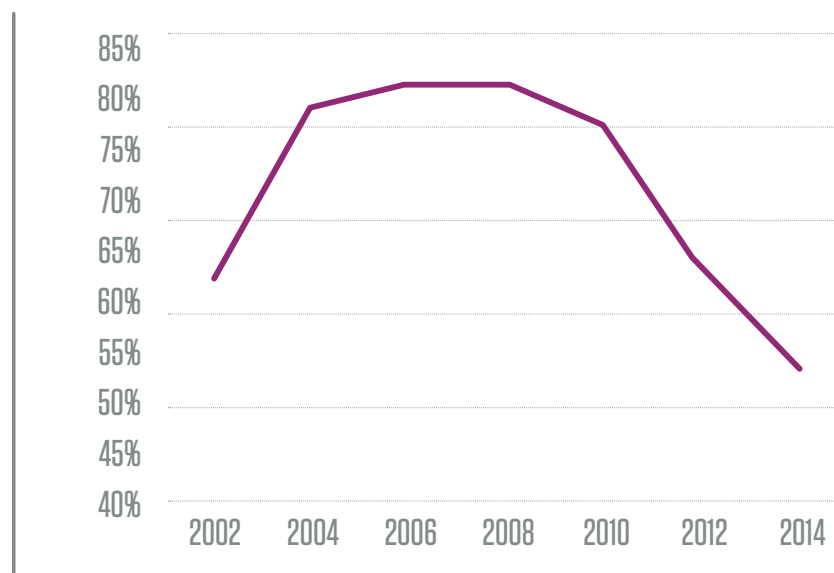
Highlights

MCCE has analyzed a variety of factors to shed light on the 186 legislative races that took place in 2014. MCCE reviewed which candidates qualified for public funding; which races featured incumbent legislators and which were “open” seats; the political party and gender of the candidates on the ballot; and the outcomes of each race. Highlights of this review include the following:

- The number of Clean Election candidates was the lowest since 2002, possibly due to the loss of matching funds.

FIGURE 13-15

Clean Elections Participation Trend Among Legislative Candidates



- The percentage of candidates using Clean Elections who won equaled the highest level ever.
- In 12 out of 19 Senate races between Clean Elections candidates and privately funded candidates, the Clean Elections candidate won.
- Fifty five percent of Clean Elections candidates who ran against privately funded candidates in House races were winners—the lowest since 2004.
- Only 51% of candidates in open seat races used Clean Elections—the lowest rate since the Clean Elections program's first election cycle.
- Sixty nine percent of women elected to the 127th Legislature used Clean Elections, while only 53% of incoming male legislators used Clean Elections.

Emerging Questions

The data raise a number of questions, including what changes might be needed to ensure that the Clean Election system remains a viable option for all candidates regardless of party affiliation, incumbency, or the competitiveness of any particular contest:

- Does the Clean Elections program remain an attractive option to all candidates, or has the loss of matching funds made it less attractive?
- Has the trend toward private funding affected all types of races evenly, or are candidates in highly competitive races especially likely to choose private funding?

- Over the last five election cycles, candidates who chose Clean Elections have been more likely to win than candidates who chose private funding. What factors explain this advantage?
- Are there factors other than the loss of matching funds that help explain declining participation rates?
- What factors explain why female legislators are more likely to run using the Clean Elections system than male legislators?
- Does the increase in privately funded candidates mean greater spending in campaigns, or does the public funding system exert a moderating influence even among non-participants?
- What factors would lead a candidate to use Clean Elections in one election and private funding in a subsequent election, or vice versa?

These questions deserve further study and analysis to help ensure a robust and effective Clean Election system that continues to function as a bulwark against the detrimental effect of special interest money in Maine elections.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

The Money in Politics Project is a series of thirteen reports about the role and effect of money on Maine politics. The reports combine a review of publicly available campaign finance data with on-the-ground analysis of how money influences Maine's elections, government, and public policy. **Maine Citizens for Clean Elections** launched this project because money in politics is an issue of vital concern to the people of Maine, one that goes to the heart of our democratic system.

Clean Election Participation Rates and Outcomes

2014 Legislative Elections

MCEA Data: Overview

This section provides data about the rates of participation in the Clean Election program. The data includes participation rates from 2002 through 2014. It also includes detail on House and Senate candidates, rates of participation by political party, and the success rates of Clean Election candidates in these groupings over the years.

FIGURE 13-1

The number of Clean Election candidates was the lowest since 2002, but the percentage of candidates using Clean Elections who won equaled the highest level ever.

MCEA Participation: Summary Data	'02	'04 [1]	'06	'08	'10 [2]	'12	'14
Total number of Candidates for House and Senate in General Election	369	391	389	374	385	385	376
Number of Candidates Using Clean Elections	230	308	314	303	295	242	199
Percent of Candidates Using Clean Elections	62%	79%	81%	81%	77%	63%	53%
Percent of Candidates Using Private Funding	38%	21%	19%	19%	23%	37%	47%
Number of Winning Candidates Using Clean Elections	111	145	156	158	148	131	107
Percent of Winning Candidates Using Clean Elections	60%	78%	84%	85%	80%	70%	58%
Percent of Winning Candidates Using Private Funding	40%	22%	16%	15%	20%	30%	42%
Percent of Candidates Using Clean Elections who Won	48%	47%	50%	52%	50%	54%	54%
Number of Candidates Using Private Funding	139	83	75	71	90	143	177
Number of Winning Candidates Using Private Funding	75	41	30	28	38	55	79
Percent of Candidates Using Private Funding who Won	54%	49%	40%	39%	42%	38%	45%

FIGURE I3-2

Senate participation declined by eight percent, while House participation declined by ten percent.

MCEA Participation: House and Senate	'02	'04*	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Total Number of Senate Candidates in the General Election	71	73	77	77	72	74	76
Number of Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	51	58	66	59	62	55	50
Percent of Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	72%	79%	86%	77%	86%	74%	66%
Number of Winning Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	27	29	29	28	30	30	24
Percent of Winning Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	77%	83%	83%	80%	86%	86%	69%
Total Number of House Candidates in the General Election	298	318	312	297	313	311	300
Number of House Candidates Using Clean Elections	179	250	248	244	233	187	149
Percent of House Candidates Using Clean Elections	60%	79%	79%	82%	74%	60%	50%
Number of Winning House Candidates Using Clean Elections	84	116	127	130	118	101	83
Percent of Winning House Candidates Using Clean Elections	56%	77%	84%	86%	78%	67%	55%

FIGURE I3-3

Republican participation decreased substantially for the second consecutive cycle. Democratic participation decreased somewhat, though not as dramatically.

MCEA Participation: By Party	'02	'04	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Total Number of Republican Candidates	168	182	180	167	181	182	175
Number of Winning Republican Candidates	84	90	77	69	98	73	88
Number of Republican Candidates Using Clean Elections	91	130	131	119	132	84	47
Percent of Republican Candidates Using Clean Elections	54%	71%	72%	71%	73%	46%	27%
Number of Winning Republican Candidates Using Clean Elections	35	60	58	51	71	35	28
Percent of Republican Candidates Using Clean Elections who Won	38%	46%	44%	43%	53%	42%	60%
Percent of Winning Republican Candidates Using Clean Elections	42%	67%	75%	74%	72%	48%	32%
Total Number of Democratic Candidates	173	180	185	186	178	176	172
Number of Winning Democratic Candidates	98	94	107	116	86	108	94
Number of Democratic Candidates Using Clean Elections	122	155	171	169	156	146	133
Percent of Democratic Candidates Using Clean Elections	71%	86%	92%	91%	88%	83%	77%
Number of Winning Democratic Candidates Using Clean Elections	72	83	99	106	75	93	77
Percent of Democratic Candidates Using Clean Elections who Won	60%	54%	58%	63%	48%	64%	58%
Percent of Winning Democratic Candidates Using Clean Elections	73%	88%	93%	91%	87%	86%	82%
Total Number of Green Party Candidates	11	20	11	9	12	7	13
Number of Green Party Candidates Using Clean Elections	8	16	7	7	4	4	11
Percent of Green Party Candidates Using Clean Elections	73%	80%	64%	78%	33%	57%	85%
Number of Winning Green Party Candidates Using Clean Elections	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Unenrolled Candidates	n/a	9	13	12	14	20	16
Number of Unenrolled Candidates Using Clean Elections	n/a	7	5	8	3	8	8
Percent of Unenrolled Candidates Using Clean Elections	n/a	77%	38%	67%	21%	40%	50%
Number of Winning Unenrolled Candidates Using Clean Elections	n/a	1	2	1	2	3	2

FIGURE 13-4

Only 26 percent of the incoming House Republican caucus used Clean Elections. The rate for the incoming Senate Republican caucus is 50 percent.

Further Breakdown by Party: Republicans	'02	'04	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Total Number of Republican Senate Candidates	35	34	35	36	35	34	34
Number of Republican Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	25	27	30	27	33	23	15
Percent of Republican Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	71%	79%	86%	75%	94%	68%	44%
Number of Winning Republican Senate Candidates	17	17	17	15	20	15	20
Number of Winning Republican Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	13	14	14	12	18	12	10
Percent of Winning Republican Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	77%	82%	82%	80%	90%	80%	50%
Total Number of Republican House Candidates	133	148	145	131	146	148	141
Number of Republican House Candidates Using Clean Elections	66	103	101	92	99	61	32
Percent of Republican House Candidates Using Clean Elections	50%	70%	69%	70%	68%	41%	23%
Number of Winning Republican House Candidates	67	73	60	54	78	58	68
Number of Winning Republican House Candidates Using Clean Elections	22	46	41	39	53	23	18
Percent of Winning Republican House Candidates Using Clean Elections	33%	63%	68%	72%	68%	40%	26%

FIGURE 13-5

The percentage of winning Democratic Senate candidates using Clean Elections increased slightly. Only one winning Democratic Senator used private funding.

Further Breakdown by Party: Democrats	'02	'04	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Total Number of Democratic Senate Candidates	31	34	35	36	33	33	35
Number of Democratic Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	24	28	32	29	27	29	28
Percent of Democratic Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	78%	82%	91%	81%	82%	88%	80%
Number of Winning Democratic Senate Candidates	18	18	18	20	14	19	15
Number of Winning Democratic Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	14	15	15	16	11	17	14
Percent of Winning Democratic Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	78%	83%	83%	80%	79%	89%	93%
Total Number of Democratic House Candidates	142	146	150	150	145	143	137
Number of Democratic House Candidates Using Clean Elections	98	127	139	140	129	117	105
Percent of Democratic House Candidates Using Clean Elections	69%	87%	93%	93%	89%	82%	77%
Number of Winning Democratic House Candidates	80	76	89	96	72	89	79
Number of Winning Democratic House Candidates Using Clean Elections	58	68	84	90	64	76	63
Percent of Winning Democratic House Candidates Using Clean Elections	73%	89%	94%	94%	89%	85%	80%

MCEA Data: Privately Funded Candidates v. Clean Elections Candidates

FIGURES 13-6, 13-7, 13-8, and 13-9 analyze races where one or more Clean Election candidate ran against one or more privately funded candidate. The 2014 results confirm that on average, Clean Election candidates are more likely to win against privately funded candidates. No doubt, many others factors contributed to this outcome in addition to the candidate's participation in Clean Elections. FIGURE 13-6 shows summary data, with more detail in the following tables.

FIGURE 13-6

In contests between Clean Elections candidates and privately funded candidates, the Clean Election candidate is more often the winner.

Privately Funded Candidates v. Clean Elections Candidates: 2012 Senate and House	Senate	House
Number of Privately Funded Candidate v. Clean Election Candidate Races	19	82
Number of Privately Funded Candidates Defeating Clean Election Opponents	7	37
Percent of Privately Funded Candidates Defeating Clean Election Opponents	37%	45%
Number of Clean Election Candidates Defeating Privately Funded Opponents	12	45
Percent of Clean Election Candidates Defeating Privately Funded Opponents	63%	55%

FIGURE 13-7

Candidates Using Clean Elections v. Privately Funded Candidates.

A total of 101 out of the 186 legislative races featured at least one Clean Elections candidate running against at least one privately funded candidate. Forty four privately funded candidates defeated Clean Elections candidates—the highest number on record. This reflects declining participation rates, primarily in the House. Note that the number of MCEA candidates who defeated privately funded opponents was also very high by historical standards.

In 2014, three challengers using Clean Elections defeated incumbents who used private funding. All three of these were House races.

Candidates Using Clean Elections v. Privately Funded Candidates: Summary Data	'04	'06 [3]	'08 [4]	'10	'12	'14
Number of Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	54	65	57	61	90	101
Number of Candidates in Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	120	144	121	138	194	206
Number of Candidates Using Clean Elections in Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	65	75	64	71	99	104
Number of Candidates Using Clean Elections who Defeated Privately Funded Opponents	28	38	37	34	59	57
Number of Privately Funded Candidates who Defeated Candidates Using Clean Elections	26	27	20	27	31	44
Number of Open Seat Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	17	19	11	16	37	35
Number of Candidates Using Clean Elections in Open Seats Races who Defeated Privately Funded Opponents	8	11	9	9	23	17
Number of Races with Incumbents with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	38	47	46	45	57	66
Number of Races with Incumbents where MCEA Funded Incumbent Defeated Privately Funded Opponent	17	23	28	23	29	40
Number of Races with Incumbents where MCEA Funded Challenger Defeated Privately Funded Incumbent	3	4	2	2	7	3

FIGURE 13-8

Candidates Using Clean Elections v. Privately Funded Candidates.

In 12 out of 19 Senate races between Clean Elections candidates and privately funded candidates, the Clean Elections candidate won.

Candidates Using Clean Elections v. Privately Funded Candidates: Senate	'04	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Number of Senate Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	9	10	12	6	12	19
Number of Candidates in Senate Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	22	24	27	13	26	40
Number of Candidates Using Clean Elections in Senate Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	13	13	15	8	14	22
Number of Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections who Defeated Privately Funded Opponents	6	4	7	3	10	12
% of Senate Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections Won by Candidates Using Clean Elections	67%	40%	58%	50%	83%	63%
Number of Privately Funded Senate Candidates who Defeated Candidates Using Clean Elections	3	6	5	3	2	7
% of Senate Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections Won by Privately Funded Candidate	33%	60%	42%	50%	17%	37%
Number of Open Seat Senate Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	6	1	3	0	6	6
Number of Open Seat Senate Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections won by Candidates Using Clean Elections	3	0	2	0	5	5
Number of Senate Races with Incumbents with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	3	9	9	6	6	13
Number of Senate Races with Incumbents with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections Won by Incumbent Candidates Using Clean Elections	2	4	5	1	5	7
Number of Senate Races with Incumbents with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections Won by Challenger Candidates Using Clean Elections	1	0	0	2	0	0

FIGURE I3-9

Fifty-five percent of Clean Elections candidates in House races against privately funded candidates won their races—lowest since 2004.

Candidates Using Clean Elections v. Privately Funded Candidates: House	'04	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Number of House Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	45	55	45	55	78	82
Number of Candidates in House Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	98	121	94	126	168	166
Number of Candidates Using Clean Elections in House Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	52	62	49	63	85	82
Number of House Candidates Using Clean Elections who Defeated Privately Funded Opponents	22	34	30	31	49	45
Percent of House Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections Won by Candidates Using Clean Elections	49%	62%	67%	56%	63%	55%
Number of Privately Funded House Candidates who Defeated Candidates Using Clean Elections	23	21	15	24	29	37
Percent of House Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections Won by Privately Funded Candidate	51%	38%	33%	44%	37%	45%
Number of Open Seat House Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	11	18	8	16	31	29
Number of Open Seat House Races with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections won by Candidates Using Clean Elections	5	11	7	9	18	12
Number of House Races with Incumbents with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections	35	37	37	39	51	53
Number of House Races with Incumbents with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections Won by Incumbent Candidates Using Clean Elections	15	19	21	22	24	33
Number of House Races with Incumbents with Privately Funded Candidates v. Candidates Using Clean Elections Won by Challenger Candidates Using Clean Elections	2	4	2	0	7	3

Incumbents, Challengers, and Open Seats

FIGURES I3-10, I3-11, and I3-12 compare the participation rates and election outcomes of incumbents, challengers, and open seat candidates using Clean Elections.

The participation rate for incumbent candidates increased slightly since 2012, after declining significantly following the 2010 election. Incumbents in the House of Representatives participating in Clean Elections increased from 57 to 63, while the number of incumbents in the Senate who chose Clean Elections decreased from 20 to 19. Participation by challenges decreased significantly, but their success rate remained steady.

FIGURE 13-I0

The number of incumbents using Clean Elections actually increased slightly between 2012 and 2014.

Incumbents	'02	'04*	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Total Number of Incumbent Candidates	122	126	140	135	139	121	126
Number of Incumbent Candidates Using Clean Elections	62	96	115	108	112	77	82
Percent of Incumbent Candidates Using Clean Elections	51%	76%	82%	80%	81%	64%	65%
Number of Incumbents who Won Election	107	108	127	125	119	104	98
Percent of Incumbents who Won Election	88%	86%	91%	93%	86%	86%	78%
Number of Clean Elections Incumbents who Won Election	57	82	106	100	94	66	66
Percent of Clean Elections Incumbents who Won Election	92%	85%	92%	93%	84%	86%	80%
Number of Incumbent Senate Candidates	27	22	28	27	25	22	25
Number of Incumbent Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	21	19	23	21	19	20	19
Percent of Incumbent Senate Candidates Using Clean Elections	78%	86%	82%	78%	76%	91%	76%
Number of Senate Incumbents who Won Election		16	27	25	21	18	20
Number of Senate Clean Elections Incumbents who Won Election		15	22	19	16	16	14
Number of Incumbent House Candidates	95	104	112	108	114	99	101
Number of Incumbent House Candidates Using Clean Elections	41	77	92	87	93	57	63
Percent of Incumbent House Candidates Using Clean Elections	43%	74%	82%	81%	82%	58%	62%
Number of House Incumbents who Won Election		92	100	100	98	86	84
Number of House Clean Elections Incumbents who Won Election		67	84	81	78	50	52

FIGURE 13-II

Seventeen percent of challengers using Clean Elections won their races—comparable to the overall rate for all challengers.

Challengers	'02	'04*	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Total Number of Challengers	125	133	152	134	143	122	122
Number of Challengers Using Clean Elections	83	105	122	102	99	74	52
Percent of Challengers Using Clean Elections	66%	79%	80%	76%	69%	61%	43%
Number of Challengers who Won Election	23	15	13	10	20	18	20
Percent Challengers who Won Election	18%	11%	9%	7%	14%	15%	16%
Number of Challengers Using Clean Elections who Won Election	14	13	12	10	14	16	9
Percent of Challengers Using Clean Elections who Won Election	17%	12%	10%	10%	14%	22%	17%
Number of Challengers in Senate	24	22	35	33	26	24	30
Number of Challengers in Senate Using Clean Elections	17	18	29	24	22	16	19
Percent of Challengers in Senate Using Clean Elections	71%	82%	83%	73%	85%	67%	63%
Number of Challengers in House	101	111	117	101	117	122	92
Number of Challengers In House Using Clean Elections	66	87	93	78	77	74	33
Percent of Challengers In House Using Clean Elections	65%	78%	79%	77%	66%	61%	36%

FIGURE I3-I2

Only 51% of candidates in open seat races used Clean Elections—the lowest rate since before 2002, the Clean Elections program's first cycle.

Open Seats	'02	'04*	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Total Number of Open Seats	56	62	46	51	47	65	62
Total Number of Open Seat Candidates	122	132	97	105	103	135	128
Number of Open Seat Candidates Using Clean Elections	85	107	76	93	84	91	65
Percent of Open Seat Candidates Using Clean Elections	70%	81%	78%	89%	82%	67%	51%
Number of Open Seat Candidates Using Clean Elections who Won Election	40	50	38	48	40	49	32
Percent of Open Seat Candidates Using Clean Elections who Won Election	47%	47%	50%	52%	48%	54%	49%
Number of Open Seat Candidates Using Private Funding	37	25	21	12	19	44	63
Number of Open Seat Candidates Using Private Funding who Won Election	16	13	8	3	7	15	30
Percent of Open Seat Candidates Using Private Funding who Won Election	43%	52%	38%	25%	37%	34%	48%
Percent of Open Seats Won By Candidates Using Clean Elections	71%	81%	83%	94%	85%	75%	52%
Number of Open Seat Candidates in Senate	20	29	14	17	21	27	21
Number of Open Seat Candidates in Senate Using Clean Elections	13	21	13	14	21	19	12
Percent of Open Seat Candidates in Senate Using Clean Elections	65%	72%	93%	82%	100%	70%	57%
Number of Open Seat Candidates in House	102	103	83	88	82	91	107
Number of Open Seat Candidates in House Using Clean Elections	72	86	63	79	63	72	53
Percent of Open Seat Candidates in House Using Clean Elections	70%	83%	76%	90%	77%	79%	50%

Clean Elections Funding and Candidate Gender

FIGURE I3-I3 shows 2014 legislative candidates by gender. The decreasing Clean Elections participation rate was shared by male and female candidates. Women are still more likely than men to use public funding. The rate of participation for female candidates has historically been higher than for male candidates, and the fall-off in recent years has been more pronounced among male candidates. Male candidate participation rates have fallen from a high of 78% to the current rate of just 48%. Female candidate participation peaked at 88% and has fallen to 66%. Sixty-nine percent of women elected to the 2015-2016 Legislature used Clean Elections, while only 53% of incoming male legislators used Clean Elections.

FIGURE I3-I3

Women and Men / Clean Elections Funding.

51% of women using Clean Elections won their election in 2014, while 56% of men using Clean Elections won.

	'02	'04	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Total Number of Women Legislative Candidates	98	101	120	113	111	105	111
Number of Women Legislative Candidates Using Clean Elections	68	87	100	99	89	77	73
% of All Candidates who are Women	27%	26%	31%	30%	29%	27%	29%
% of Women Candidates Using Clean Elections	70%	86%	83%	88%	80%	73%	66%
Number of Winning Women Candidates	50	45	57	55	52	54	54
% of Women Candidates who Won Election	51%	45%	48%	49%	47%	51%	49%
Number of Women Candidates Using Clean Elections who Won Election	36	38	49	49	42	44	37
% of Women Using Clean Elections who Won Election	53%	44%	49%	49%	47%	57%	51%
% of all Women Elected using Clean Elections	72%	84%	86%	89%	81%	81%	69%

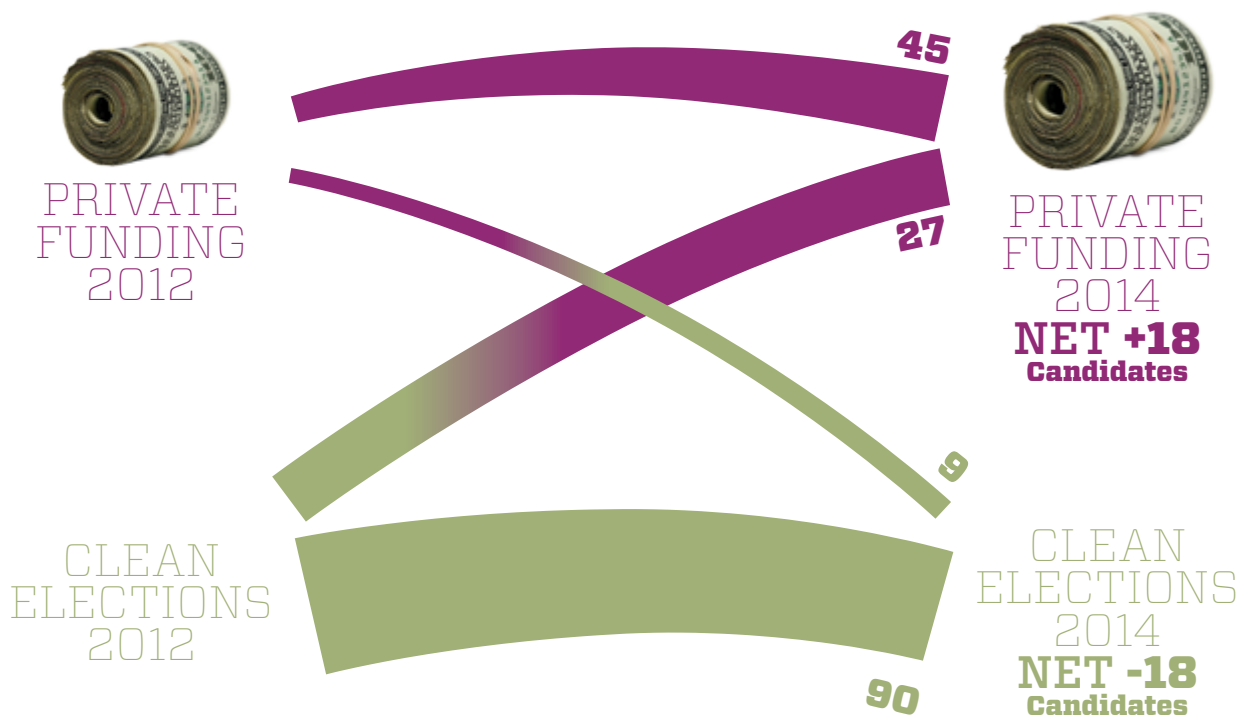
	'02	'04	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14
Total Number of Men Legislative Candidates	271	290	269	261	274	280	265
Number of Men Legislative Candidates Using Clean Elections	162	221	214	204	206	165	126
% of All Candidates who Are Men	74%	74%	69%	70%	71%	73%	69%
% of Men Candidates Using Clean Elections	60%	76%	79%	78%	75%	59%	48%
Number of Winning Men Candidates	136	141	129	131	134	132	132
% of Men Candidates who Won Election	50%	49%	48%	50%	49%	47%	50%
Number of Men Candidates Using Clean Elections who Won Election	61	107	107	109	106	87	70
% of Men Using Clean Elections who Won Election	38%	48%	50%	53%	51%	53%	56%
% of all Men Elected Using Clean Elections	55%	76%	83%	83%	79%	66%	53%

Switching: Do Repeat Candidates Use the Same Funding Option In Their Second Race?

We also analyzed the 171 candidates who ran for the legislature in both 2012 and 2014. Most of these candidates used the same funding system in their second race, but 36 did not. As shown in Figure 14, between 2012 and 2014 twenty-seven candidates switched from Clean Elections to private funding, while nine candidates switched from private funding to Clean Elections.

FIGURE 13-14

Candidates tend to stick with the same funding option, but those who switch are more likely to switch to private funding in their second race.



Conclusion

MCCE is publishing this Report on the 2014 legislative elections to highlight participation trends relating to the Clean Elections public funding option and the relative success rates of candidates at the polls. The trend toward fewer candidates qualifying for Clean Elections continued during this cycle, but the success of Clean Elections candidates at the polls remains high.

Valuable information could also be obtained by surveying candidates regarding their experience using their chosen funding option and their recommendations for improvements in the future.

MCCE will continue to analyze 2014 campaign finance reports as part of our ongoing effort to educate the public. In addition to the critical questions presented above (PAGE 3), our future reports will shed light on the sources of campaign contributions and independent expenditures in Maine campaigns and their connection to important policy issues.

[1] Senator Art Mayo ran and won his race in 2004 as a Republican, however he switched parties to become a Democrat shortly after the election. For this analysis, he is considered a Republican.

[2] Rep. Michael Willette ran as a Democrat and switched parties immediately after the election. He is included here and throughout as a Republican.

[3] In all four of the 2006 House races between a Clean Election candidate and a privately funded candidate the Clean Election candidate was a Democratic challenger who defeated a privately funded Republican incumbent.

[4] In three of the 2008 races featuring a Clean Election candidate against a privately funded opponent, the only privately funded candidate was a write-in candidate. In one of those races, the privately funded write-in candidate was the only opponent to the CE candidate; in the other two races, Clean Election candidates represented both of the major parties, and there was a third write-in candidate who was privately funded.

[5] There were five write-in candidates in the Ethics Commission's 2012 database, all privately financed. Two of those candidates ran in three-way races against two Clean Elections candidates. Those races are counted as Clean Election vs. Privately Funded races in this section. All five write-in candidates are included in the data.

[6] Because of redistricting, two of the 2014 legislative races featured incumbents running against other incumbents. In District 91, both Jeff Evangelos and Ellen Winchenbach were incumbents. And in District 98, both Joe Brooks and James Gilway were incumbents. In the data they are reported as incumbents rather than challengers. Also, this means that the number of open seat races plus the number of incumbent races exceeds the total number of legislative races.

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REPORT #2

Profiles in Fundraising—The Leader Board: Maine's Top Legislative Fundraisers and How They Earned Their Spots

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Preliminary Report on 2012 Campaign Money: Private Money Making A Comeback In Maine Elections

Report #5

2012 Legislative Elections: An Analysis of Clean Election Participation and Outcomes

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