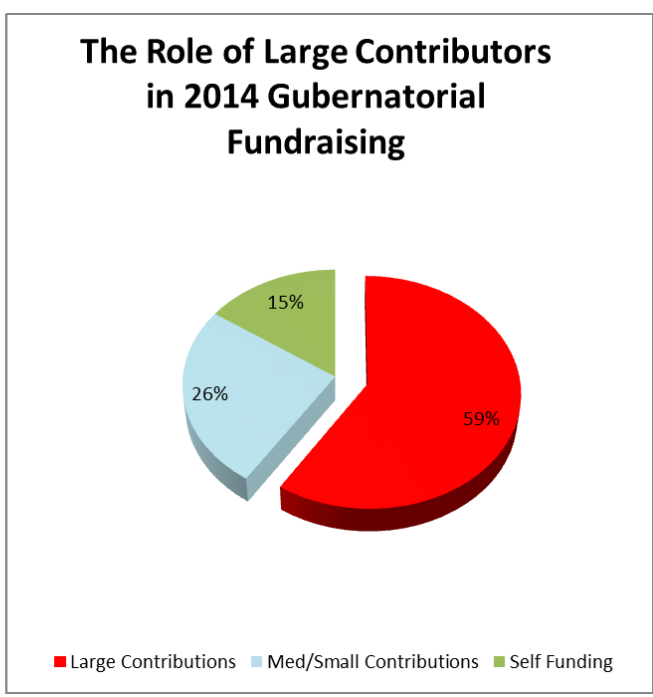
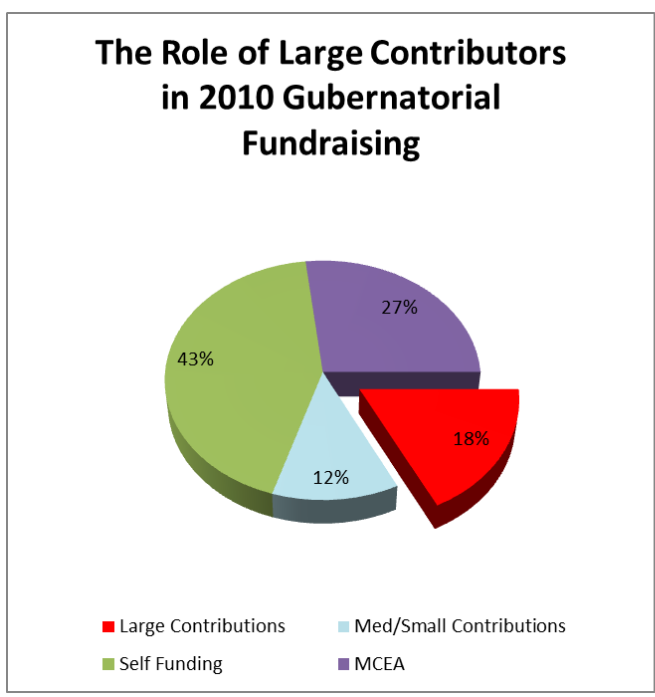


Latest Pre-Election Reports Show Large Private Donors Have Taken Over Maine Gubernatorial Campaigns

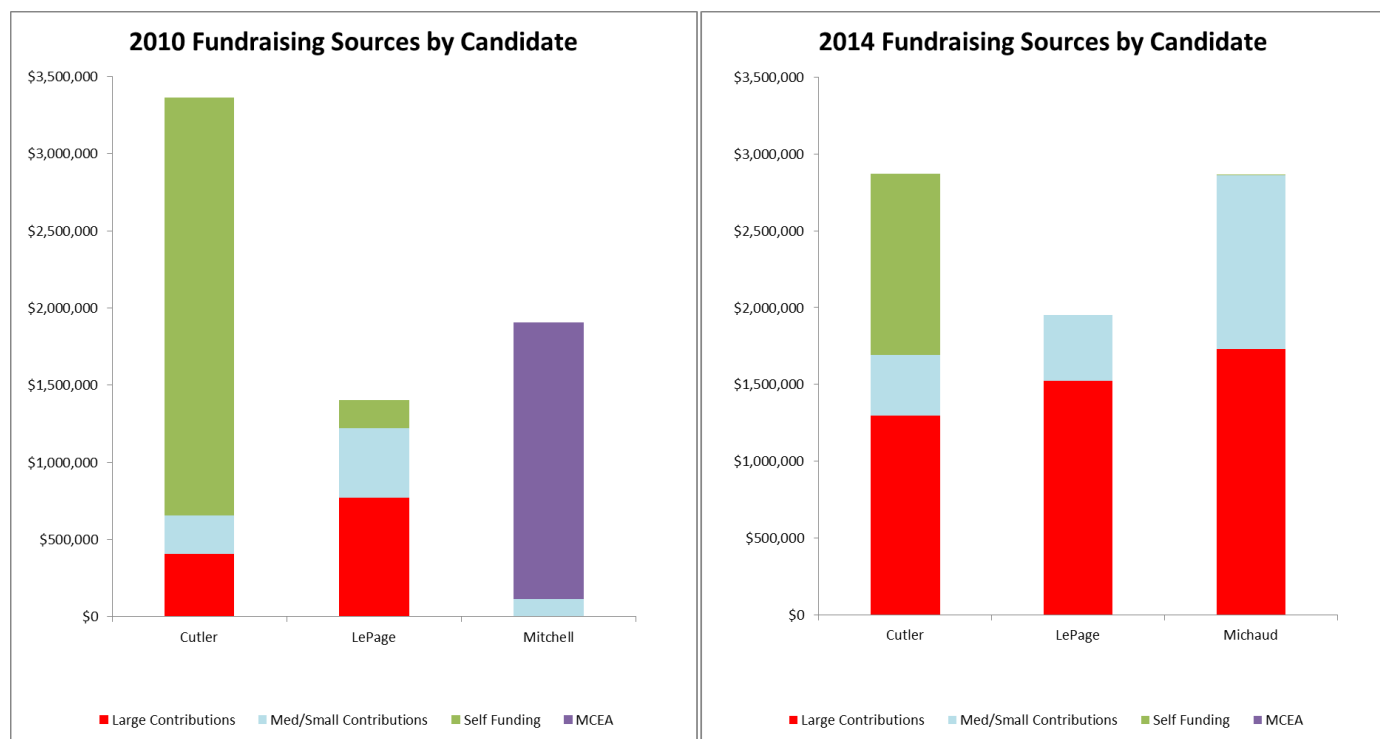
Gubernatorial candidates filed their last comprehensive pre-election reports on Friday, October 24th. The reports show that **large contributions have increased dramatically** and now dominate funding in the 2014 gubernatorial campaigns. The reports also confirm that the candidates are on track to break all previous fundraising records.



The 2014 cycle is the first since the Maine Clean Election option was suspended for gubernatorial candidates, leaving Eliot Cutler, Paul LePage and Mike Michaud to rely on private funding. Another important factor is the recent court decision that effectively doubled gubernatorial contribution limits for the post-primary period in this cycle. As a result, gubernatorial candidates have increasingly turned to wealthier donors for large contributions. The two privately funded candidates in 2010 received \$1.18 million in large contributions, defined as gifts of \$500 and above.¹ The three finalists in 2014, in contrast, have already

¹ The figures include all funds raised during the respective election cycles but exclude candidates who lost in the primary. These figures do not account for contributors who have given on multiple occasions. Aggregating those contributions would undoubtedly increase the total pool of contributions larger than \$500.

raised \$4.55 million in large contributions – a **385% increase**. A portion of the increase is expected due to the presence of three privately funded candidates in 2014, one more than in 2010. But most of the increase is a result of all candidates intensifying their fundraising for large donors, as the bar graph below makes clear.



The three major candidates have each received **over 1,000 large contributions**. For each candidate, the average size of the large contributions is approximately \$1,000.

2014 Candidate	Amount raised in large contributions	# of large contributions	Average amount of each large contribution
Eliot Cutler	\$1,297,682	1,291	\$1,005
Paul LePage	\$1,524,462	1,461	\$1,043
Mike Michaud	\$1,731,858	1,852	\$935

Large contributions dominate the fundraising by each candidate, although the funding provided by Eliot Cutler to his own campaign nearly matches his fundraising from large donors.

After the election MCCE will issue additional analyses, including a look at independent expenditures and a comprehensive analysis of overall campaign finance trends across all 2014 legislative and gubernatorial campaigns.