

Frequently Asked Questions

Collecting Signatures for the Clean Elections Initiative

Do I have to be a registered voter to sign? Yes. Sometimes voters may have moved recently and don't remember where they are registered. If this is the case, asking where they last voted can help, and if they have moved recently, they should sign with their old address.

I'm a felon, so I can't vote. Felons can vote in Maine! However, if they are not registered voters, they can't sign the petition.

I have bad handwriting/wear a cast/poor eyesight, etc. Can you sign for me? No. The voter must sign their own name and date it. Someone else, either a spouse or the collector, is able to fill in the rest of the information.

Can I sign for my spouse? No. The voter must sign their own name and date it. Someone else, either the spouse or the collector is able to fill in the rest of the information.

I've already signed. Can I sign twice? No.

How many signatures do you need? Our goal is to get 70,000, but inevitably some won't be valid; we must have at least 57,277 valid signatures to put it on the ballot.

When will this be on the ballot? When are the signatures due? This will be on the ballot in November of 2015. The validated signatures are due to the Secretary of State on January 20th, 2015.

If you don't get the signatures you need by the deadline, can you save them and try again? We are confident that we can get the signatures we need! However, if we don't submit them by the deadline, we can only save them until May 2015.

I don't support Clean Elections, so I don't want to sign. The petition is to let the voters decide on this important issue. If you believe we should have the chance to vote on this, then you should sign the petition.

Don't we already have Clean Elections in Maine? Yes, but the law has been substantially weakened allowing big-money to flood our elections.. In June of 2011, the United States Supreme Court removed a part of the law that allowed Clean Elections candidates to remain competitive when they were outspent by a privately funded opponent or outside special interests. This bill will strengthen Clean Elections, disclose dark money in our elections, and close other big-money loopholes.

How does the Clean Election Act work? Candidates must demonstrate community support by collecting a minimum number of \$5 donations from voters in their district. After a candidate begins to receive Clean Election funds from the State, he or she cannot accept private contributions. Clean Elections keeps our elected officials accountable to voters, not donors.

What exactly is Clean Elections? It is a voluntary system of full public financing for candidates.

Which offices are covered by Clean Elections? In Maine, candidates for State Representative, State Senate and Governor may run for office using Clean Elections instead of relying on private donations.

Where does the money come from? This ballot initiative would close a corporate tax loophole to pay for Clean Elections.