



Clean Elections

Ensure Fair and Effective Policymaking

When public laws are thoughtfully made and fairly enforced, those laws work better for everyone

The Clean Election system enjoys broad support and a tremendous record of success

- Eighty percent of candidates for the Maine Legislature run under the Clean Elections public financing system, including incumbents, challengers, and open seat candidates from all parties and the unenrolled
- Every statewide survey confirms that the Clean Election system enjoys overwhelming support among voters

The Clean Elections Act is fair and effective policymaking at its best

- Clean Elections cuts the connection between private money and public office, leaving lawmakers to govern freely without obligation to financiers
- Clean Elections creates the opportunity for a broad range of Mainers to run for office and conduct better, more voter-centered campaigns. Allowing more citizens to meaningfully participate in our democracy makes the system work better for all of us
- With Clean Elections, Maine people can trust the process and count on transparency



Clean Elections means a cleaner and safer environment

- Maine's environmental community strongly supports the Clean Election Act because it helps to balance the influence of well-funded special interests, which are too often working to weaken our state's environmental and public health standards

As the result of a 2011 court ruling, the Maine Clean Elections system must be amended in order to remain viable and working as it was intended

- Maine's Clean Elections program lost its 'matching funds' provision in a 2011 Supreme Court decision, which will leave candidates with limited funding and easily outspent by a privately funded opponent or through independent expenditures
- The Clean Elections amendment must be consistent with the voter-approved Clean Elections system, be appealing to a wide variety of candidates, and allow participating candidates to run competitive races

The Ethics Commission has recommended a "re-qualifying option" that has been endorsed by Maine Citizens for Clean Elections and a broad array of Maine organizations, including the Environmental Priorities Coalition

- The "re-qualifying option" builds on the successful and familiar qualifying process by providing supplemental funds to motivated, active candidates who successfully reach out to voters
- The "re-qualifying option" will eliminate the problem of last minute matching funds, keep the system an attractive option for candidates, and will not inject more private money into campaigns
- The Ethics Commission recommendation complies with the spirit and letter of the court ruling and the original Clean Elections law that voters passed. It's a creative solution that keeps Maine on the forefront of getting big money out of politics
- Now is the time to strengthen, not weaken, Maine's landmark law

Doing nothing to replace the matching fund system will dramatically weaken the Clean Election law and allow more special interest money to influence Maine policymaking

Support the Ethics Commission Recommendation to Strengthen Maine's Clean Elections Law

For more information, please contact Glen Brand at 207-761-5616 or glen.brand@sierraclub.org

Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 27 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides for all of us.

American Lung Association of Maine
Appalachian Mountain Club
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Environment Maine
Environment Northeast
Friends of Casco Bay
Maine Audubon
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Congress of Lake Associations
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited
Maine Conservation Alliance
Maine Interfaith Power and Light
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Rivers
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Product Policy Institute of Maine
RESTORE: The North Woods
Sierra Club Maine
The Ocean Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Toxics Action Center