

Design of Maine Clean Election Act Program

- ▶ Enacted by citizen initiative. In operation since 2000.
- ▶ Available to candidates for Governor and Legislature.
- ▶ System of full public financing. After qualifying for public funds, candidates may accept no cash or in-kind contributions. Everything must be paid for with public funds from the State.
- ▶ Candidates qualify by collecting \$5 “qualifying contributions” payable to the Maine Clean Election Fund.

How Candidates Qualify

- ▶ Candidates collect \$5 qualifying contributions from registered voters payable to the Maine Clean Election Fund. QCs may be made by check, credit card, or cash.
- ▶ Contributors must sign a petition-like form to affirm contribution. Cash QCs require a special form.
- ▶ Candidates submit the QCs to the Commission during a qualifying period (Jan. 1 – Apr. 20 for legislative candidates)
- ▶ To receive basic level of funding, candidates must collect: 60 QCs (House), 175 QCs (Senate), 3,200 QCs (Governor)

Funding Available to Legislative Candidates

Basic Level of Funding			
House Candidates		Senate Candidates	
QCs	Payments	QCs	Payments
60 QCs	\$6,025	175 QCs	\$24,025
Maximum Funding Available			
QCs	Payment	QCs	Payment
180 QCs	\$17,025	535 QCs	\$67,825

Cost and Revenue

- ▶ 55% of 2020 legislative candidates participated in MCEA program (192 program participants).
- ▶ This year, payments to legislative candidates is expected to total around \$4 million.
- ▶ Payments are made from a special revenue account, the Maine Clean Election Fund. Largest source of funding is an annual transfer of \$3 million from the General Fund.

More Information

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