

Overview of Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

Areas in Commission's Jurisdiction

- Campaign finance disclosure (candidates, PACs, ballot question committees, party committees)
- Administering the Maine Clean Election Act
- Lobbyist disclosure (registration, monthly reporting)
- Limited "ethics" jurisdiction (receiving sources of income statements, advising Legislators on conflicts of interest and travel, *etc.*)

Members

- David R. Hastings III (R)
- William J. Schneider, Chair (R)
- Beth Ahearn (D)
- Sarah LeClaire (D)
- Dennis R. Marble (U)

Staff

- Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
- Martha Currier, Assistant Director
- Erin Gordon, Candidate Registrar
- Lorrie Brann, Candidate Registrar
- Heidi Hoefler, Political Committee and Lobbyist Registrar
- Julie Aube, Commission Assistant

Important, but Not in the News

- Litigation
 - 2023, Question 2, Preventing Election Spending by U.S. Companies Partially Owned by Foreign Governments (preliminary injunction)
 - 2024 Citizen Initiative, Question 1, Limiting Contributions to Super PACs
- Corridor-Related Investigations (Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2023)

Projects this Year

- Collecting Statements of Sources of Income
- Improvements to Campaign Finance Filing System
- Auditing 20% of Maine Clean Election Act candidates, randomly selected
- 2025 Citizen Initiatives
- Rulemaking (mostly clarifications and housekeeping)

Maine Clean Election Act Overview 2008 – 2024

◆ PARTICIPATION BY LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

	MCEA Candidates in General Election	Total Candidates in General Election	Percentage of MCEA Candidates
2008	303	373	81%
2010	295	385	77%
2012	242	384	63%
2014	199	378	53%
2016	227	357	64%
2018	206	373	55%
2020	192	348	55%
2022	214	359	60%
2024	195	355	55%

◆ PARTICIPATION BY ELECTED LEGISLATORS

	Percentage of Legislators Who Participated in the MCEA
124 th Legislature	85%
125 th Legislature	80%
126 th Legislature	70%
127 th Legislature	58%
128 th Legislature	64%
129 th Legislature	63%
130 th Legislature	59%
131 st Legislature	62%
132 nd Legislature	57%

◆ RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY POLITICAL CAUCUS

	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
House (D)	80% (115/143)	77% (107/139)	71% (96/135)	77% (102/133)	68% (91/132)
House (R)	45% (60/134)	27% (37/138)	32% (40/126)	35% (48/137)	39% (52/136)
Senate (D)	79% (27/33)	86% (31/36)	74% (26/35)	80% (28/35)	74% (26/35)
Senate (R)	56% (19/34)	56% (18/32)	67% (22/33)	71% (25/35)	56% (19/34)
Green, Unenrolled	54% (7/13)	46% (13/28)	42% (8/19)	58% (11/19)	39% (7/18)

*Percentage of Participation (Number of Participating Candidates/Total Number of Candidates)

◆ PARTICIPATION BY CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR

	MCEA Candidates in Primary Election Only	MCEA Candidates in General Election
2002	James Libby (R)	Jonathan Carter (G)
2006	Peter Mills (R)	Barbara Merrill (U) Chandler Woodcock (R) Pat LaMarche (G)
2010	Patrick McGowan (D) Peter Mills (R)	Elizabeth Mitchell (D)
2014	Gubernatorial Program Suspended for 2014	
2018	Garrett Paul Mason (R) Elizabeth Sweet (D)	Teresea Hayes (U)
2022	No Gubernatorial Candidates Qualified for Funding in 2022	

◆ TOTAL PAYMENTS TO MCEA CANDIDATES*

Election Year	Legislative	Gubernatorial	Total
2004	\$2,799,617	N/A	\$2,799,617
2006	\$3,347,775	\$3,534,615	\$6,882,390
2008	\$2,954,035	N/A	\$2,954,035
2010	\$3,301,006	\$2,999,774	\$6,300,780
2012	\$2,102,850	N/A	\$2,102,850
2014	\$1,990,380	N/A	\$1,990,380
2016	\$3,344,830	N/A	\$3,344,830
2018	\$3,552,017	\$2,723,011	\$6,275,028
2020	\$3,868,858	N/A	\$3,868,858
2022	\$4,568,030	N/A	\$4,568,030
2024	\$4,517,603	N/A	\$4,517,603

*Payment totals include all funds disbursed for primary and general elections (before any return of unspent funds).

◆ FUNDING LEVELS FOR MCEA CANDIDATES IN THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

	General Payment Only	1 Supp. Payment	2 Supp. Payments	3 Supp. Payments	4 Supp. Payments	5 Supp. Payments	6 Supp. Payments	7 Supp. Payments	8 Supp. Payments
HOUSE CANDIDATES per level (Total candidates = 149)	27	21	20	17	13	11	9	8	23
Amount per candidate	\$6,225	\$7,775	\$9,325	\$10,875	\$12,425	\$13,975	\$15,525	\$17,075	\$18,625
SENATE CANDIDATES per level (Total candidates = 46)	4	6	3	6	5	4	3	2	13
Amount per candidate	\$24,925	\$31,150	\$37,375	\$43,600	\$49,825	\$56,050	\$62,275	\$68,500	\$74,725
Total payments to House candidates for the general election	Total payments to Senate candidates for the general election			Total payments to all MCEA candidates for the general election					
\$1,732,891	\$2,428,900			\$4,161,791					

Note: All MCEA candidates in the 2024 general election received an initial payment for the general election. Some replacement candidates and all unopposed candidates received initial payments that were less than the amounts indicated above. Candidates in contested races were eligible for up to eight supplemental ("Supp.") payments. Unopposed candidates were not eligible for supplemental payments.