

MCCE Action
PO Box 18187
Portland, ME 04112



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Susan Drucker
Henry Ogilby
66 Browns Point Rd
Bowdoinham, ME 04008-4804

Dear Susan and Henry,

Board of Directors

- Gary Friedmann
President
- Ed Youngblood
Vice President
- Wells Lyons
Secretary
- Ann Luther
Treasurer
- Phil Bailey
- Kris Clark
- Emma Halas O'Connor
- Jamie Kilbreth
- Jolene Lovejoy
- Alison Smith
- Jill Ward

“Andy,” he asked me, “**how do we build a movement?**”

That was the first question MCCE’s board president asked me on a phone call two days after Question 1 – the Clean Elections Initiative – passed at the ballot last November.

At the time, we were riding a wave of hope after our landslide win at the polls – **a victory of Maine people, by Maine people, for Maine people.** After witnessing a systematic weakening of our innovative law, you and thousands of Maine citizens came together **to lead the nation, once again.** Together, we passed Question 1, making substantive improvements to Maine’s Clean Election law.

Our Maine ‘movement’ is about building on our momentum from that November victory – using our success as the foundation to constantly aspire to do better – **better for Maine citizens, better for our democracy.**

I am proud that despite the actions of some legislators and our governor this legislative session to impede Clean Elections, we succeeded in so many ways.

Clean Elections candidate **participation is on the rise again**, no longer precipitously falling.

More women are running for office. And, we often hear from **teachers, waiters, carpenters,** and others that make up our citizen’s legislature, “***I would not have been able to run without Clean Elections.***”

We brought thousands of Maine people **into a conversation** about the damaging effects of money in politics.

We **mobilized** hundreds of citizens into **direct action** during the election and the legislative session.

We changed the minds of legislators, **turning foes into Clean Election advocates.**

Most important, **we saved Clean Elections** and with it showed the nation that we, **the people,** still have what it takes **to defend and improve our democracy.**

Successes like these take hard work and resources. As we plan over the summer for the next big challenges – and with plenty left to accomplish – **your financial support is crucial,** now more than ever.

Can we count on your \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100 or \$250 gift so we are prepared to tackle these next challenges?

The success of our work depends on many leaders. MCCE’s Volunteer Leadership Team **organizes** in communities throughout Maine. Our volunteer-driven Rapid Response Team **swings into action** whenever our law is threatened by legislative action or a veto by our governor.

Organizers **mobilize** thousands of Mainers who turn around and apply pressure directly on their representatives. And leaders in the legislature **fight to protect** Clean Elections.

We **inspire** thousands of people with common goals and beliefs to rally behind a simple idea: **fairness** dictates that **the voice of every citizen should be heard regardless of the size of their bank account.**

With your support we will build on our successes by:

- Equipping people with **the tools and training to push innovative ideas forward**, to create meaningful action through direct action;
- Offering a Money in Politics presentation that is **innovative, accessible, honest and optimistic**;
- Educating Mainers on how to **engage directly in the political process**, as a Clean Election candidate, a community leader, or a volunteer;
- Continuing our tenacious and ever-present work in the legislature **to fight for all Maine people.**

Government should provide solutions on the most important issues like education, healthcare, the environment, and economic development. It should focus on **the betterment of all of us**, not just for the benefit of wealthy campaign contributors and special interest donors.

That's why I'm asking you to join us by using the enclosed slip and return envelope to mail in your gift of **\$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$250 today.** Turn **your financial support into direct action** to educate and inform thousands of Mainers, and to continue our work **empowering the voice of everyday citizens.**

Thousands of citizens voted for accountability, transparency and a stronger voice in our political system. They voted with the conviction that a \$5 qualifying contribution could make **every Maine citizen a political player.** They voted with the belief that if they **embraced their duty as responsible, engaged citizens**, their representatives would honor their vote.

And yet, in the aftermath of a **vote on our citizens initiative overwhelmingly in favor of Clean Elections**, for the first time in the history of the program – since the legislature started "borrowing" from the fund in 2002 – legislators **failed to honor their end of the deal.** They allowed the fund to head into an election season with **the funding in jeopardy.**

Mainers were upset that will of voters was **deliberately ignored within the halls of power.** Naturally, they begin to believe that our government is not listening to us.

Cynicism and apathy are tenacious co-conspirators. They thrive by attacking people's motivation to participate in civic life. They succeed by preying on fear and promoting negative public discourse. **Cynicism and apathy succeed when we believe that we, the people, cannot do anything to change the status quo.**

But, we are fortunate; we have the antidote to cynicism and apathy. **You.** People who speak out and **stand up to those in power**, who recruit more people, and who engage in direct action to make change possible. Our message is one of hope, that **anything is possible when we work together.**

So, we will continue to identify people harmfully affected by the influence of big money so they can share their story in **an inspiring way.** We will organize people who put **our community values in motion** to create change.

And by **harnessing the powerful energy** of grassroots citizens in action toward a common goal, **we will empower everyday citizens to take back control of our government.**

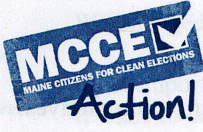
What I said to my board president, and to you today is this: **the 'movement' already resides in all of us.**

Onward,

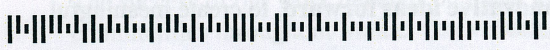


Andrew Bossie, Executive Director

*P.S. Any donation you make **before June 30th** gets you in our **Of, By, For Drawing** and a chance to win a great mini-vacation. Check out mccc.me/drawing to see all three packages and donation online to enter!*



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