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Testimony of Representative Morgan Rielly in support of

LD 1966, “An Act to Allow Candidates for County Office to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act”

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. I am Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of Westbrook. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **LD 1966, “An Act to Allow Candidates for County Office to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act”** for your consideration.

As we have seen with recent elections, there has been a flood of monies into county-wide races. Amending the Maine Clean Election Act to include candidates for county-wide office will help tamp down on outside monies being poured into these races by special interest groups and wealthy individuals. This change will encourage candidates to participate in county-wide races who don't have the means to rely on personal wealth and connections.

We already allow state legislators, including a state senate seat that includes an entire county, and the Governor to participate in clean elections. Letting candidates for county office participate as clean election candidates makes sense.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.