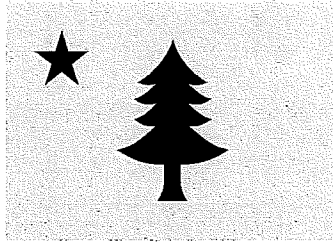


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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT IV

May 24, 2023

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Maeghan Maloney, I am the District Attorney for Kennebec and Somerset Counties and the President of the Maine Prosecutors Association. I am here today in support of LD 1966, An Act to Allow Candidates for County Office to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act.

I first ran for office as a clean election candidate for the Maine legislature. Consequently, my campaign was focused on hearing the concerns of the people of my district and meeting as many of them as possible.

I then ran for district attorney for two Maine counties and had to raise money traditionally. Raising money unfortunately took the majority of my time. Who donates to a district attorney race? Attorneys who might have business with the District Attorney's Office. That invariably creates a potential future conflict. It would be similar to candidates for the legislature raising money primarily from lobbyists—one of the reasons the clean election statute was passed. District attorneys have exclusive authority over whether to charge most criminal cases in Maine, whether to offer a plea to resolve the case, whether to drop a felony to a misdemeanor and what crimes will be given the focus of the office. The decisions of district attorneys change people's lives every day. It is important that district attorneys do not have a bias toward a party either actual or perceived.

I am grateful to Representatives Collins and Rielly for bringing forward this legislation. Thank you.

I urge you to vote in favor of LD 1966.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/ Maeghan Maloney

Maeghan Maloney