



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

To: Hon. Janet T. Mills, Governor
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Date: January 21, 2026
Re: Fiscal Status Report - Maine Clean Election Fund

This memo constitutes the 2026 report by the Ethics Commission staff on the fiscal status of the Maine Clean Election Fund, submitted pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 1124(4). The Maine Clean Election Act is a voluntary program of public campaign financing that is available to legislative and gubernatorial candidates. The Fund is a special revenue account which the Commission uses to pay candidates and finance personnel and administrative costs.

The Commission continues to monitor the total cost of Maine Clean Election Act payments. After the program was redesigned by a 2015 citizen initiative, the total cost of payments to legislative candidates increased through 2022. In 2024, however, the total cost of payments to candidates decreased slightly because of a small reduction in candidate participation:

	Total MCEA Payments to Legislative Candidates
2018	\$3,552,017
2020	\$3,868,858
2022	\$4,568,030
2024	\$4,517,603

Financing the MCEA Program

Payments to candidates are made from a special revenue account, the Maine Clean Election Fund. Revenue to the Fund is about \$3.2 million annually. The largest share of this revenue (around 90%) is an annual transfer of \$3 million from the General Fund that occurs around January 1st of each year. The Fund receives this revenue every year which builds up over time, but payments are made to candidates every two years (legislative) and every four years (governor). Other sources of revenue include the deposit of qualifying contributions and a checkoff option for taxpayers. The Fund also pays for a portion of the Commission's personnel and administrative expenses (MaineIT, other IT contracts, services by DAFS, rent, STACAP, auditing, *etc.*).

Financial Projections

The Commission staff's current projections for revenue and expenditures through fiscal year 2030 are:

	Revenue	Payments to Legislative Candidates	Personal Services	Admin Costs MaineIT, services from other state departments, IT vendor, auditor, etc.
FY 2027	\$3,251,221	\$1,923,200	\$410,521	\$302,244
FY 2028	\$3,322,680	\$3,472,794	\$414,061	\$295,415
FY 2029	\$3,239,539	\$2,000,128	\$435,152	\$314,334
FY 2030	\$3,322,545	\$3,611,706	\$438,905	\$307,231

Thank you for your consideration of this report.