

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 23

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Testimony of Senator Mattie Daughtry introducing
**LD 255, An Act to Require Campaign Finance Reports for State and County
Candidates Other than Governor to Be Filed on the 42nd Day Before Any
Election”**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
February 6, 2023

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Mattie Daughtry, and I proudly represent Senate District 23, which includes Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. Today I am pleased to introduce my bill LD 255, “An Act to Require Campaign Finance Reports for State and County Candidates Other than Governor to Be Filed on the 42nd Day Before Any Election.” I also have an amendment that I will describe in this testimony.

LD 255 would promote transparency by requiring candidates running for state and county offices to file pre-election finance reports. In Maine, we have strong campaign finance disclosure laws, but LD 255 would make them even stronger. Voting members of the public deserve to know that the candidates they are considering for state and county offices are following Maine’s campaign finance laws—before voters go to the polls. We already require gubernatorial candidates to file these pre-election finance reports. It’s time that state and county offices do the same.

My proposed amendment would exclude Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) candidates from filing these reports since these reports would duplicate pre-existing reporting requirements. Also, the amendment specifies that municipalities that already have a 42-day report filing requirement, such as the City of Portland, could keep it.

My overarching goal with this piece of legislation is to create parity between traditional and MCEA financed candidates. No matter how your campaign is funded, voters deserve to see—at the same time—how a candidate is spending their resources. Currently MCEA candidates are required to file a seed money report before a traditional campaign is required to make any filing. This enables traditional candidates in competitive primaries who are running against MCEA candidates to get a preview of their opponents campaign before they have to file anything

themselves. Having experienced this myself, I have seen first hand how beneficial it would have been to have all candidates filing at similar times.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mattie".

Mattie Daughtry

Assistant Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 23

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