



# Maine County Commissioners Association

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

May 31, 2023

Chair Hickman, Chair Supica, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as a member of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as chair of the legislative policy committee of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide belated testimony to the Committee in support of LD 1966.

**About MCCA.** Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta, represents all 16 of Maine's counties, and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county.

**Discussion.** LD 1966 permits candidates for county office to participate in the Maine Clean Election Act. While our Association recognizes that not every candidate for county office will choose to participate in the Maine Clean Election Act, we support permitting those that desire to participate to be able to do so. Further, MCCA supports this bill to the extent that it permits candidates for county office who feel as though money is a barrier to running for such office to participate in the Maine Clean Election Act. In expressing our support for this bill, we are cognizant of the fact that the Clean Elections program is state-funded, including through the collection of qualifying contributions by participating candidates. Our support for this bill is conditioned on such funding remaining in place for this proposed expansion of Maine's campaign finance laws.

**Conclusion.** We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, and if you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Gorden  
Chair, Legislative Policy Committee

cc: Commissioner Richard Dutremble, President, MCCA  
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel