



TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: February 19, 2026

RE: LD 2000: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Qualifying Contributions of Cash Under the Maine Clean Election Act

My name is Alison Smith, and I'm testifying as a volunteer on behalf of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working to ensure that Maine's campaign finance laws, elections, and government serve the public interest, both in principle and in practice.

We wish to address the asterisked note in the testimony of Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director of Maine's Ethics Commission, regarding the reporting of independent expenditures in the final days of a campaign.

MCCE appreciates the work done by the stakeholder group to identify ways to improve disclosure laws and reduce confusion and duplication for those engaged in campaign finance reporting, but we think it is a mistake to eliminate 24-hour reports in the final 6 days of an election.

Between raising the threshold for reporting from \$250 to \$1,000 and moving to a 48-hour requirement, we feel that the loss of transparency in the crucial final days of an election is too great. Voters must know who is behind campaign messages, and our laws and reporting requirements must support that important value. We recommend that the current 24-hour reporting requirement remain in place in the final 6 days of an election.

Thank you for your consideration.