

4/30/2025

Good afternoon Senator Hickmand and Representative Supica, Co-Chairs, and
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

RE: LD1787 Public Hearing

My name is Sarah Stadler. I am a resident of Bath. I am here as a constituent, (and a member of LWW). I am testifying in support of LD 1787.

As a relatively new full time resident of Maine I have not been part of the history of the Clean Elections but I am happy to have been the beneficiary of its impact on our elections here for the last 5 years. Maine is a relatively small state but one of the consequences of media, social and otherwise, is that its influence can be felt more widely. Unfortunately this also means that elections here attract attention and are vulnerable to outside influence (read "money"). The Clean Elections Act goes a long way towards making our elections reflect the will of the people here in Maine, and not those of more well heeled forces outside.

It is important that this law be strengthened and expanded to more local elections in Maine. This act would extend Clean Elections to county government offices where much of our law enforcement and justice system are implemented. Expanding the Clean Elections Act as proposed in LD1787 allows a broader range of people to participate as candidates in these local races, and funds the effort. This expansion would mean these elections reflect the local constituencies affected.

I hope you will support LD1787 going forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sarah StadlerNot