



For Immediate Release

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**New Report Shows Private Money Surges in Maine Elections
Amidst Calls for a Strengthened Campaign Finance Laws**

Augusta - Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) released a report today showing that for the first time since 2002 private funds surpassed Maine Clean Election Act Funds in Maine legislative races. *Tracking the Money: Private Money Surges in Maine's 2012 Legislative Races* contains an extensive analysis of the amount spent in Maine's 2012 legislative elections – the most expensive in Maine history. The report shows that substantial campaign contributions were made by many entities with vested interests in the decisions to be made by the 126th Legislature now in session.

According to the report, individuals, political action committees, businesses, and labor organizations spent substantial sums to directly and indirectly support and oppose candidates. Entities with hired lobbyist contributed more than \$1.4 million, accounting for more than 12% of total spending. Business interests and labor organizations combined leveraged more than \$3 million, with business contributions considerably eclipsing those by labor unions.

“Court rulings and legislative action weakened our Clean Election law and cleared the way for more special interest money in our elections,” said Andrew Bossie, Executive Director of MCCE. “Our analysis shows that after a decade of progress toward a government accountable to voters, not campaign donors, Maine is moving backward,” he continued. “This legislature has the opportunity to reverse this trend by fully funding and restoring the Clean Election Act and joining the growing list of states calling for a U.S. Constitutional Amendment on campaign finance.”

The full report can be found at www.maineclanelections.org/money-6.

The report is the 6th in a series on the role and effect of money on Maine politics.

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