



For Immediate Release
September 24, 2013

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Report on Gubernatorial Fundraising Reveals Big Money's Dominance

Fundraising for Three Top Candidates Exceeds One Million Dollars

Augusta, ME - Almost half of the million dollars already raised in the race to elect Maine's next governor came from maxed-out donors. That is one of the facts revealed in Maine Citizens for Clean Elections' (MCCE) newly released Money in Politics Report.

"First Look at 2014 Gubernatorial Fundraising: Private Money From Wealthy Contributors Dominates the Campaign" is the 10th in a series of reports published by MCCE's Money and Politics Project.

"With 14 months to go, it is clear that large private contributions will play a much more significant role than in recent elections," said Andrew Bossie, Executive Director of MCCE. "With no Clean Election option for candidates for governor for the first time since 2002, and triple the contribution limit that voters enacted in 1996, wealthy donors will be tapped as never before. And some 275 donors have already given the maximum allowed under Maine law."

The report is based on information provided by the campaigns through regular public disclosures. The report shows that while Republican Governor Paul LePage got a head start with his reelection fundraising, he has already been surpassed in total funds by independent Eliot Cutler, and Democrat Mike Michaud is not far behind. All the candidates have gone to multiple sources for funding, with Cutler receiving the highest percent from both out-of-state and maxed-out donors, LePage getting more than others from corporate contributors, and Michaud receiving the most from both lobbyists and donors giving \$50 or less.

"Election 2014 is shaping up to be not only the most expensive in Maine's history, but the least democratically funded," said Bossie. "And this doesn't even take into account the outside money that is expected to flood the state next year. Anyone who cares about the health of our democratic systems should be very concerned."

The full report can be found at <http://www.mainelection.org/money-10>

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