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[Clean Election laws allow way to fight special interests](#)

Thank you for publishing Brunswick School Board member Michelle A. Small's thoughtful Maine Voices column ("Gov. LePage goes beyond the minimum on disclosing contributions," Jan. 21) about the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision.

A year later, it's pretty clear that the court has given special interest money a central role in federal elections. As predicted, the money in the 2010 elections flowed like never before.

Here in Maine, citizens have the central role, not special interests. And citizens step up to take part year after year. We participate by signing petitions, getting to know candidates, voting and checking "yes" for clean elections on the Maine income tax form.

Our landmark Clean Election system runs on voter power. It is fueled by tiny contributions from Maine voters and taxpayers, and that means that candidates here don't have to raise large contributions from special interests.

With 80 percent of candidates opting to use the system in the last election cycle, special interest influence in Maine is limited.

And one of the best ways to keep it that way is to check "yes" on Line 1 of your Maine income tax form. Your tax bill won't go up, and your refund won't go down.

Despite Citizens United, here in Maine we can and do limit the influence of special interests. I hope everyone will remember to check "yes" for clean elections.

Jill Ward

South Portland