

# BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Letter to the Editor

February 12, 2013

## Act on clean elections

The role of money in politics has long loomed like a dark cloud over our democracy, but never exceedingly. Large private contributions from anonymous donors overwhelmed races large and small throughout the country to the tune of \$6 billion.

Maine has a long and proud tradition of rejecting the influence of outside moneyed interests in our politics, and in 1996, Maine citizens spoke, and the nation's first Clean Elections Act became law.

However, the Citizens United ruling dismantled many of its key features.

What's more, Gov. Paul LePage's outrageous new budget would cripple the program by raiding the Clean Election fund of \$4 million, virtually ensuring the interests of big money will win the day in the next election cycle.

Recent demonstrations in Augusta showed us that, thankfully, a major bipartisan effort is underway to reject the governor's budget. They will also strengthen our Clean Elections Act and send a resolution to Washington that demands a constitutional amendment to limit the influence of anonymous special interests with billions to spend.

As Mainers, we should put our backs into supporting these efforts and demand that our government is beholden to the people, not sold to the highest bidder.

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