

2022 GUBERNATORIAL MAINE CLEAN ELECTION ACT

PART 1: INTRODUCTORY GUIDE

Overview: To become a certified Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) candidate and receive public funds for their campaign, a gubernatorial candidate must collect a required number of *qualifying contributions* (QCs) within the *qualifying period*. During the qualifying period, candidates may raise and spend *seed money* to finance the beginning of their campaign and MCEA certification efforts. After the qualifying period ends, certified candidates may continue to solicit and collect additional QCs to receive *supplemental payments* of MCEA funds. **Candidates must submit all required certification materials by 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2022.**

◆ Qualifying Contributions (QCs)

- ◆ A QC is a donation of **\$5 or more** to the **Maine Clean Election Fund** from **any registered voter in the State of Maine**.
- ◆ Candidates must submit at least **3,200** valid QCs to the Commission within the qualifying period.
- ◆ QCs can be donated to campaigns via **check** and **cash**, using the proper forms authorized by the Commission, and the Commission's **QC donation website**.

◆ Qualifying Period

- ◆ The qualifying period for 2022 gubernatorial candidates is **October 15, 2021 through April 1, 2022**.
- ◆ The qualifying period ends at **5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2022**.
- ◆ Candidates must also be **registered** with the Commission and have signed a **Declaration of Intent** within **five days** of beginning QC collection.

◆ Seed Money

- ◆ Once registered with the Commission, a candidate may begin raising seed money.
- ◆ A candidate is allowed to raise and spend up to **\$200,000** in seed money between the time they register and when they request **certification** as an MCEA candidate
 - ◆ *Certification must be requested by 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2022.*
- ◆ Only **individuals** are allowed to donate seed money; the **contribution limit is \$100**.

◆ Supplemental Payments

- ◆ After receiving MCEA certification, a candidate may continue to solicit and accept **additional QCs** through **October 18, 2022** to receive supplemental payments of MCEA funds. *Please see the opposite page for MCEA funding amounts.*

Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

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PART 2: PAYMENT AND QC AMOUNTS

Overview: The amount a certified gubernatorial MCEA candidate may receive is based on the contested status of their election (for the primary) and how many valid additional QCs they submit. There are two types of MCEA payments: *initial payments*, which all certified MCEA candidates receive, and *supplemental payments*, which are based on the number of valid additional QCs they submit. Only candidates in contested elections may receive supplemental payments.

◆ Primary Initial Payments

- ◆ Party candidates in a **contested** primary receive an initial payment of **\$437,125**.
- ◆ Party candidates in an **uncontested** primary and **unenrolled candidates** receive an initial payment of **\$218,550**.
- ◆ Primary payments are reduced by any unspent seed money.

◆ Primary Supplemental Payments

- ◆ Candidates in a **contested** primary may receive up to **four** supplemental payments.
- ◆ A supplemental payment is made after a candidate submits **800** valid additional QCs.
- ◆ Each primary supplemental payment is **\$163,925**.
- ◆ Additional QCs for the primary must be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2022**.

◆ General Initial Payments

- ◆ **All candidates** in a general election receive an initial payment of **\$655,675**.

◆ General Supplemental Payments

- ◆ Candidates in a **contested** general election may receive up to **eight** supplemental payments.
- ◆ A supplemental payment is made after a candidate submits **1,200** valid additional QCs.
- ◆ Each general election supplemental payment is **\$191,250**.
- ◆ Additional QCs for the general election must be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. on October 18, 2022**.

◆ Maximum Amounts

- ◆ For a **contested primary**, a candidate could receive **\$1,092,825** if they submit **6,400** valid QCs.
- ◆ For an **uncontested primary** and a **contested general** election, a candidate could receive **\$2,404,225** if they submit **12,800** valid QCs.
- ◆ For a **contested primary** and a **contested general** election, a candidate could receive **\$3,278,500** if they submit **16,000** valid QCs.