



## Evidence of the Success of Clean Election Laws

**1. Maine passed a prescription drug bill, Maine Rx+.** Under this program, all but the wealthiest families in Maine, and anyone with high drug costs, will be able to buy any drug on the Medicaid list for the Medicaid price, saving as much as 60% of market prices.

Maine also passed laws requiring prescription drug manufacturers to disclose how much they spend advertising their products in Maine, and requiring retail prices on receipts to show the actual costs of drugs.

Senate Majority Leader Sharon Treat gives these reasons for the passage of these bills. Due to "campaign finance reform, we're spending more time door to door, rather than fundraising. That means you're out there hearing from people about what they care about-health care and prescription drugs, especially the prices."

Also "in Maine, campaigns for state office are largely publicly funded, so you don't see the same level of direct contributions from the pharmaceutical industry to state legislators."

Maine's new health care program proposed by Governor Baldacci, was revised and improved by the Legislature by a two-thirds majority, demonstrating bipartisan support. Note that a large number of Republicans and Democrats won their seats running on public financing.

**2. Dirigo Health and MaineCare was signed into law in June 2003.** It represents a broad strategy to improve Maine's health care system and includes three inter-related approaches: a new health plan to achieve universal access to health coverage by 2009; new and improved systems to control health care costs; and initiatives to ensure the highest quality of care statewide.

For example Dirigo Health will seek to insure 31,000 individuals during its first year of operations, beginning July '04, and will provide access to coverage for at least another estimated 110,000 individuals by 2009. Coverage will be available to uninsured individuals, businesses and municipalities with 50 or fewer employees, and the self-employed. (For more information on these bills go to <http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/healthpolicy/index.html> and to <http://www.mainearepdl.org>)

**3. Special Interest Groups fight Public Financing every election cycle.** One of the most significant pieces of evidence that public financing is working is that in every election cycle there is a huge effort in Maine and Arizona to overturn the public financing laws by special interests. They see that public financing of campaigns does level the playing field and that publicly elected legislators now listen just as much to citizens as to Big Money. Special interests no longer have the upper hand in controlling legislation.

**4. There is less of a money advantage in public financing states.** Research now shows that in Washington State for the 2004 elections, 90.8% of those who had the most money won a House seat and 96.4% of those who had the most money for their campaigns won a Senate seat, as compared to Arizona: 75% House/ 63.3% Senate and Maine: 55% House/ 65.7% Senate. This points to the influence of big money in a state without public financing as compared to 2 states with public financing.

It's correct to assume that the reason for this is that in Maine and Arizona, more candidates are beginning to run on public financing, with set grants of money for those campaigns, and this reduces the money being spent in campaigning. *In fact, for the 2006 elections in Maine, 80% of the candidates have chosen to run on public financing.*

**5. More Candidates are Using Public Financing.** In Maine and Arizona, in each election cycle, more candidates are using public financing to run their campaigns, revealing that this system is gaining more popularity among politicians. The candidates testify that it's liberated them from hustling the money, liberating them from being beholden to special interests, liberating them to vote their conscience, and liberated them in such a way as to listen to what their constituents are saying.

Note that in Maine, particularly, there is a more equal distribution between Republicans and Democrats who have won seats using public financing, revealing the non-partisan support of public financing.

**6. Fewer unopposed elections in public financing states.** In 2006, Washington State had almost one-third of the legislative positions with the candidate running unopposed. In Maine in 2006 only 2 seats of 151 were uncontested. Arizona has reduced the number of unopposed races by 60% since starting public financing.