



STATE OF MAINE  
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS  
AND ELECTION PRACTICES  
135 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0135

**Agenda**

**Meeting of December 29, 2008**

9:00 a.m., Public Utilities Commission Hearing Room,  
242 State Street, Augusta, Maine

**1. Ratification of Minutes of the October 27, 2008 Meeting**

**2. Late Independent Expenditure Report by the Maine Association of Realtors PAC**

The Maine Association of Realtors PAC was required to file an independent expenditure report on Saturday, October 11, 2008 disclosing expenditures made to support Senate candidates Lois Snowe-Mello and Christopher Rector. Instead, the PAC filed the report 20 days late on Friday, October 31, 2008. The PAC paid a routine penalty of \$1,231.20. The late filing of the report delayed the payment of matching funds to Senate candidates Deborah Simpson and David Miramant. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends the assessment of an additional penalty under 21-A M.R.S.A. § 1127(1) because the late reporting delayed the payment of matching funds.*

**3. Provisional Adoption of Rule Amendment regarding Seed Money Maximum**

In July 2008, the Commission agreed to accept public comment on a proposed rule amendment to increase the maximum amount of seed money which a gubernatorial candidate seeking Maine Clean Election Act funding can collect from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The Commission agreed at its October 27 meeting to accept public comment on a larger increase to \$150,000. On November 24, the Commission held a public hearing to receive comments on the \$150,000 proposal. The Commission may amend the seed money maximum to \$100,000 or \$150,000. Any change to this rule would be major substantive, and would need to be submitted to the Legislature for its consideration.

**4. Proposed Statutory Changes**

The staff has drafted for consideration by the Commission members proposed changes to the statutes within the Commission's jurisdiction. If the Commission approves of them, the Commission may submit them to the Legislature in the form of a bill no later than February 2, 2009 (90 days after the general election).

**5. Proposed Changes to Commission Rules**

The Commission staff has drafted proposed changes to Chapters 1 and 3 of the Commission's rules for consideration by the Commission's members. They may initiate a rule-making by agreeing to accept public comment.

## **6. Presentation of Audit Reports**

The Commission's Executive Director will present the reports for the first five audits of Maine Clean Election Act candidates in the 2008 general election. The audits were conducted by the Commission's former Auditor, Sumner Field. No exceptions (violations) were noted.

## **Other Business**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

If necessary.

### **ADJOURNMENT**