



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

Agenda - AMENDED

May 6, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Note: this meeting will be conducted in person and streamed on the Commission's YouTube channel. A link to the channel may be found at www.maine.gov/ethics.

1. Ratification of the Minutes of the February 25, 2026 Meeting

2. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Grow Maine

Grow Maine PAC was six days late in filing the April Quarterly campaign finance report due April 10, 2026. The PAC requests a waiver of the \$1,847.52 preliminary penalty due to the PAC's history of filing campaign finance reports on time, the lack of automated email reminders from the Commission's new eFiling system, and the reduced harm to the public resulting from the late report. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends a full or substantial waiver.*

3. Reclaim Maine – Late PAC Registration and Initial Campaign Finance Report

Reclaim Maine received a \$20,000 contribution on July 9, 2025 to support a candidate for Governor in the 2026 elections. It did not register with the Commission as a PAC and file an initial campaign finance report until eight months later in March 2026. *Staff recommendation: the Commission staff recommends assessing penalties totaling \$3,500 against the PAC for its late registration and initial campaign finance report. Please note the PAC is operating independently of the candidate whom the PAC is supporting. The late filings should not be attributed to the candidate or his campaign committee.*

4. Request for Investigation – Maine Democratic Party

In 2025, the Maine Democratic Party spent around \$170,000 to oppose Question 1 on the November 4, 2025 ballot, which was a citizen initiative to restrict absentee voting. The party disclosed its financial transactions opposing Question 1 in its four quarterly campaign finance reports but did not file additional reports that were required because of the party's activities against the initiative. *Staff recommendation: the staff recommends assessing penalties totaling \$9,000 for not filing the 11-day pre-election, 42-day post-election, and three 24-Hour Reports on time.*

5. Criteria for Accepting Qualifying Contributions

Every two years, the Commission staff updates its written procedures for accepting qualifying contributions from candidates seeking Maine Clean Election Act funding and distributes them to the Commission for informational purposes. No action is required by the Commission.

6. Complaints about Red boxing by Democratic Gubernatorial Candidates

The Commission received complaints about three Democratic candidates for Governor concerning red box messages on their campaign websites.

Other Business

Executive Session – Legislative Ethics Complaint

The Commission will meet in executive session as required by 1 M.R.S. § 1013(3-A) to consider whether to take action on a complaint alleging that a Legislator engaged in a violation of legislative ethics as defined in 1 M.R.S. § 1014(1).

ADJOURNMENT