



Minutes of the June 24, 2026 Meeting of the
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, Maine

Present: William Schneider, Esq., Chair; Brooke Bailey, Esq.; Colton Gross, Esq.; and Sarah LeClaire, Esq.

Staff: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director; and Jonathan R. Bolton, Assistant Attorney General.
Commissioner Schneider convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

1. Ratification of the Minutes of the May 27, June 1 and 9, 2026 Meetings

Ms. LeClaire moved to approve the minutes of the May 27, June 1 and 9, 2026 meetings as presented. Mr. Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

2. Rulemaking

At its May 27, 2026 meeting, the Commission voted to begin a rulemaking by inviting public comment on rule amendments proposed by staff. The amendments were intended to implement two 2026 laws regarding the use of artificial intelligence in political ads and the spending threshold for independent expenditure reporting.

Agenda item #2 on the agenda for the June 24 meeting was a public hearing to receive comments from the public. No person participating in the meeting wished to comment on the rule amendments. Written comments will be accepted until July 8, 2026.

3. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Derek Levasseur

Mr. Wayne stated Mr. Levasseur stopped by the office and paid the \$350 penalty recommended by Commission staff. Mr. Schneider moved to find the 11-Day Pre-Primary Report was filed late and reduce the penalty to \$350. Ms. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

4. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Hon. James Thorne

Rep. James Thorne, a candidate for the Maine House of Representatives, was required to file an 11-Day Pre-Primary Report on May 29, 2026. His treasurer misread the report reminder email and filed the report late on June 1. Rep. Thorne requested a waiver of the preliminary penalty of \$34.50. Staff recommended not reducing the preliminary penalty because it was already below the range of penalties usually assessed when a report is filed late.

Mr. Schneider moved to find the 11-Day Pre-Primary Report was filed late and make no reduction to the \$34.50 penalty. Mr. Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

5. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – Hon. Doug Thomas

Former State Senator Doug Thomas is running in 2026 for State Representative. He is financing his campaign through the Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) program and was required to file an 11-Day Pre-Primary Report by 11:59 p.m. on May 29, 2026.

MCEA candidates may not file their own campaign finance reports, which includes certifying that the report is complete and accurate. Candidates may enter financial transactions in the Commission's eFiling system, but the report must be filed by the treasurer or deputy treasurer.

Mr. Thomas's report was filed on June 1, 2026, three days late. The preliminary penalty for the late report is \$40.50. The candidate requested a full waiver of the penalty.

Mr. Thomas explained he was entering his eleventh election cycle. He has always filed campaign finance reports on time because of the importance of transparency. For the report due May 29, 2026, he believed he and his treasurer were jointly responsible for filing reports. In past election cycles, there were times when his treasurer had not been available, and he had filed his own reports.

This year, the candidate's wife served as his treasurer. They attempted to file the 11-Day Pre-Primary Report together, not realizing they had used the candidate's log-in credentials rather than the treasurer's. They were unable to submit the report on the evening of the deadline, which was on a Friday. They contacted Commission staff the following Monday and were assisted in filing the report.

Mr. Wayne explained that the Commission's eFiling systems have barred MCEA candidates from filing their own reports since 2014. At the request of the Commission, Candidate

Registrar Erin Gordon produced the 2026 guidebook that explained MCEA candidates could not file their own campaign finance reports.

Mr. Schneider moved to find the 11-Day Pre-Primary Report was filed late and assess a penalty of \$40.50. Mr. Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

6. Request for Waiver of Late-Filing Penalty – John Glowa

John Glowa, Sr., an unenrolled candidate for Governor, was required to file an 11-Day Pre-Primary Report on May 29, 2026. He filed the report in the early morning of May 30, 2026. Mr. Glowa requested a waiver of the preliminary penalty of \$60.56.

Mr. Schneider moved to find the 11-Day Pre-Primary Report was filed late and assess a penalty of \$60.56. Mr. Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

7. Campaign Finance Reporting by State Rep. Richard Campbell

At its last meeting, the Commission authorized staff to investigate a discrepancy between the \$7,232.71 ending balance of Rep. Richard Campbell's 2024 campaign and the amount of surplus 2024 funds that Rep. Campbell reported he was carrying forward to his 2026 campaign.

On June 3, 2026, Rep. Campbell submitted a photo of a bank statement documenting that the balance in his campaign account on May 4, 2026 was, in fact, \$7,232.71. The bank statement supported his explanation that he had reported carrying forward a different amount to 2026 based on a misunderstanding with his bank. Mr. Schneider moved to take no further action on the matter. Ms. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

8. Financial Activity by VoteRise to Influence the 2026 Democratic Primary Election

This matter was postponed until the Commission's July 29, 2026 meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Gross moved to adjourn. Ms. Bailey seconded. The motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director