



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

To: Commission
From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Date: September 17, 2025
Re: Radio Messages Paid for by Aroostook Democratic County Committee

One of the primary functions of party committees is to promote its nominees in a general election. Through 2005, Maine campaign finance law facilitated this through an exception for “a printed slate card or sample ballot, or other printed listing, of 3 or more candidates.” In 2005, the Legislature modified the exception so that it applied to a “communication” that “lists the names of at least 3 candidates,” including in non-print media such as broadcast advertising or websites.

Because of this exception for “party candidate listing[s]”, the Legislature has made it acceptable for candidates to receive free advertising from a party committee as long as the advertisement meets the criteria for the exception. In these cases, the candidate has not received a contribution even if the candidate cooperated with the party committee on the communication by providing a photo or message.

For several election cycles, a radio station in Aroostook County, Channel X, has offered to Democratic and Republican party committees an opportunity to pay a fee to broadcast their nominees on election day talking about their policy views, voting, etc. Part of the election day was reserved for Democratic candidates and part of the day was for Republican candidates.

In this memo, the Commission staff reports back on its investigation of an October 28, 2024 payment of \$1,999 by the Aroostook Democratic County Committee (“the committee”) to the Chanel X radio station for the broadcast on November 5, 2024 of election day messages featuring six Democratic legislative nominees. The staff recommends the view that the paid messages on Channel X did not qualify as a party candidate listing because each message featured only one candidate, not three or more. We recommend a finding that the candidates accepted an in-kind contribution in violation of the terms of the Maine Clean Election Act program. The Commission may wish to consider whether to assess a monetary penalty for this violation. The Commission staff also recommends finding that the committee violated two legal requirements because of incomplete disclosures. Our specific recommendations are listed in the last section of this memo. We have also prepared a draft guidance memo that is included directly after this nine-page memo.

Applicable Law

Restrictions on Maine Clean Election Act Candidates

Candidates who voluntarily join the Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) program agree to certain restrictions on their spending and the contributions they may receive. After qualifying for public campaign funds, MCEA candidates may not accept any cash or in-kind contributions. 21-A M.R.S. § 1125(6). A candidate who violates any provision of the MCEA may be assessed a penalty of up to \$10,000. 21-A M.R.S. § 1127(1).

Definition of Contribution

In Maine Election Law, the definition of “contribution” includes, in part:
A gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state, county or municipal office

21-A M.R.S. § 1012(2)(A)(1). The Commission’s rules further define in-kind contribution as follows:

Unless specifically exempted under Title 21-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1012 and 1052 or this section, the provision of any goods or services without charge or at a charge that is less than the usual and customary charge for such goods or services is an in-kind contribution. Examples of such goods and services include, but are not limited to: equipment, facilities, supplies, personnel, advertising, and campaign literature. If goods or services are provided at less than the usual and customary charge, the amount of the in-kind contribution is the difference between the usual and customary charge and the amount charged the candidate or political committee.

94-270 C.M.R. ch. 1, § 6(4).

Since 2005, the definition of contribution to candidates has contained an exception for a party candidate listing (sometimes referred to as an exception for slate cards):

“Party candidate listing” means any communication that meets the following criteria.

- A.** The communication lists the names of at least 3 candidates for election to public office.
- B.** The communication is distributed through public advertising such as broadcast stations, cable television, newspapers and similar media, and through direct mail, telephone, electronic mail, publicly accessible sites on the Internet or personal delivery.

C. The treatment of all candidates in the communication is substantially similar, except for any requirement under federal law applicable to communications regarding federal candidates.

D. The content of the communication is limited to:

- (1) The identification of each candidate, with which pictures may be used;
- (2) The offices sought;
- (3) The offices currently held by the candidates;
- (4) The party affiliation of the candidates and a brief statement, including campaign slogans, about the party's or the candidates' positions, philosophy, goals, accomplishments or biographies;
- (5) Encouragement to vote for the candidates identified;
- (6) Information about voting, such as voting hours and locations; and
- (7) Campaign or party logos.

If the communication contains language outside the categories of this paragraph, it does not qualify as a party candidate listing.

21-A M.R.S. § 1012(5).

Financial Reporting Requirements for Party Committees

When a party committee makes an expenditure to influence the election of candidates, it is required to report the name of each candidate. 21-A M.R.S. § 1017-A(2)(A). Also, when a party committee makes an expenditure for a communication that influences the election of more than one candidate, it is required to itemize the amount spent per candidate. 94-270 C.M.R. ch. 1, § 7(7).

Disclaimer Requirements for Paid Communications

When any person pays for a communication that expressly advocates for a candidate's election and the communication was authorized by the candidate, the communication must:

- include the name and address of the person who made the expenditure, and
- state that the communication was authorized by the candidate.

21-A M.R.S. § 1014(1).

Genesis of Investigation

The Commission staff was unaware of the election day tradition of paid candidate messages on Channel X until Ms. Ginette Rivard, an active Democrat in Aroostook County, filed a November 1, 2024 complaint with the Commission about anticipated advertising by the Maine Republican Party featuring a Republican Senate nominee and other candidates. Ms. Rivard said the paid messages did not meet the requirements for a party candidate listing because the messages disproportionately promoted the Senate nominee. Because of the complaint, the Maine Republican Party cancelled their election day messages on Channel X.

Earlier this year, the Aroostook Democratic County Committee came forward because it was late in filing four 2024 campaign finance reports. In the course of assisting the committee, Assistant Director Martha Currier found out about an expenditure to a local radio station, reportedly for “election coverage.”

Ms. Currier gathered preliminary information about the situation by contacting the Bennett Radio Group, also known as Channel X Radio. The station provided an invoice for the amount paid by the committee and the election day broadcast times of the messages promoting the six candidates. The radio group also provided an audio recording of a typical message that featured candidate Kevin Freeman. An informal transcript of that message is attached for your reference. At its July meeting, the Commission authorized its staff to investigate the election day messages.

Facts Learned in the Investigation

The Commission staff interviewed all six candidates (some of them twice) and spoke with Rick Asam, treasurer of the committee, and George Gartley, the current vice-chair of the committee. The interviewees were cooperative but the relevant events were more than ten months ago, which contributed to some gaps in their recollections. The candidates are Dave McCrea, Roland Danny Martin, Vance McLaughlin, Melanie Tompkins, Kevin Freeman, and Matthew Rush.

Scheduling and recording. Most of the candidates remembered they were contacted by Channel X about participating in a group recording. Ms. Melanie Tompkins provided an October 24, 2024 scheduling email from the radio station asking the candidates to reserve October 31 at 3:00 p.m. for 60-90 minutes. The radio station later contacted the candidates to say the recording would take place at a restaurant in Caribou. Mr. Kevin Freeman recalls receiving one or two phone calls from the station.

Five of the six candidates participated in the October 31 recording at the restaurant. Channel X employee Rich Mello recorded the five candidates as they sat around a table and engaged in a roundtable discussion about issues, why they were running, voting, etc. We believe that, at a later time, Mr. Mello or another radio station employee selected portions of the recording and edited them so that there were five separate messages that each featured a single candidate. The sixth candidate was recorded separately because he lived one hour away. A seventh candidate was invited but did not participate. Some of the candidates did not hear the recorded messages that were broadcast on Channel X and were unaware how they had been edited.

Broadcast messages. The staff has received a roughly two-minute sample audio of one of the messages, for House candidate Kevin Freeman. We have transmitted that to you by email and a transcript is attached. In my opinion, the audio sounds more like an interview rather than a paid advertisement. Mr. Mello's introduction and closing implies that the conversation with Mr. Freeman is occurring on election day, although it was recorded on October 31st, 2024. At the conclusion, a different voice is inserted that says "Paid for by the Aroostook County Democratic Committee." This voice does not provide the address of the committee or state whether Kevin Freeman authorized the message.

Channel X provided a list of the broadcast times of the messages for each candidate. Each candidate's message was aired three times between 6:30 a.m. and 12:50 p.m., roughly every two hours. The list of times also includes times for the broadcast of a message by outgoing State Senator Troy Jackson which is not part of this investigation.

Financing. At a meeting on October 26, 2024, the committee approved a payment of up to \$2,000 to purchase airtime on Channel X on election day. In an email to the Commission staff in April this year, committee treasurer Rick Asam explained: "We did not purchase ad time for individual candidates. We funded support for all Aroostook County Democratic candidates. How that was done was not our decision." Mr. Asam received a purchase order dated October 28, 2024 in the amount of \$1,999 for "election day coverage."

The candidates had varying understandings concerning the financing for the messages. Melanie Tompkins did not understand that the recording at the Caribou restaurant was a paid advertisement. She thought it was more like a public service announcement. Vance McLaughlin said he didn't know who made the expenditure. Kevin Freeman stated (incorrectly) that the Presque Isle Democratic Committee had paid the radio station. The other three candidates said they understood the Aroostook Democratic County Committee would pay for the ad.

Compliance with Election Law. When asked, the candidates and party activists said they thought this was compliant because both Democratic and Republican legislative

candidates in Aroostook County had been participating in similar paid radio messages for several election cycles. Also, some of them said they thought the committee was allowed to advertise in support of the entire slate of Democratic legislative candidates in Aroostook County.

Potential Finding of Violation by Candidates

Recommended finding of violation. Candidates should be expected to have a general understanding of what is an in-kind contribution. In general, if a candidate has accepted from another person a free service that has economic value, such as advertising time, the candidate has received an in-kind contribution. 21-A M.R.S. § 1012(2)(A)(1); 94-270 C.M.R. ch. 1, § 6(4). Ideally, both the person paying for the service and the candidate should check if the contribution complies with the relevant contribution restrictions or meets the terms of one of the contribution exceptions.

The Commission staff recommends the view that the paid messages on Channel X did not qualify for the “party candidate listing” exception. One of the required terms for that exception is that “the communication lists the names of at least 3 candidates for election to public office.” In this case, our understanding is that each communication featured only one candidate.

We recommend that the Commission find that the six candidates violated 21-A M.R.S. § 1125(6) by accepting an in-kind contribution of advertising time on Channel X with a value of \$333.

Potential penalty. If a candidate has violated the Maine Clean Election Act, the Commission is authorized to assess a penalty of up to \$10,000. 21-A M.R.S. § 1127(1). In this case, the Commission staff may wish to consider whether to assess a penalty for the violation.

The rationale for assessing a penalty is that each candidate, in effect, received a “freebie” of advertising in the amount of \$333. Arguably, they should have made a greater effort to verify that this was allowed under the Election Law, rather than assume it was okay or rely on the judgment of others. A penalty in this case is consistent with the Commission’s overall mission to encourage all legislative candidates to understand what constitutes an in-kind contribution and to make sure they are complying with the applicable contribution restrictions.

The reasons for not assessing a penalty include:

- when interviewed, some candidates said they believed the paid messages were compliant because both Democratic and Republican candidates in Aroostook County have participated in similar paid messages during several previous election years.
- According to its treasurer Rick Asam, the committee believed it was acting lawfully because its expenditure was intended to promote an entire slate of Democratic candidates. Although the committee can be faulted for not gaining a full understanding of the party candidate listing exception, it did have a specific reason for believing it was acting lawfully.
- On Election Day, November 5, 2024, I contacted Rick Asam and George Gartley and warned them that the advertisements may not comply with Election Law requirements. When interviewed, Mr. Asam said they made a good-faith effort to cancel the Channel X advertisements but were unable to get hold of anyone at the radio station. The Commission may wish to consider this as an attempt to mitigate the noncompliance of the situation.

The Commission sees very few cases of Maine Clean Election Act candidates accidentally accepting in-kind contributions, so the Commission has little precedent for this type of violation. In my opinion, this case is somewhat analogous to candidates who accidentally “overspend,” which is our informal term for candidates who purchase goods or services to promote their campaign that is greater than the amount of spending that the Commission authorized under the Maine Clean Election Act. In several overspending cases that occurred during 2006 - 2018, candidates spent more MCEA funds than authorized due to budgeting or billing errors. In these cases, the Commission assessed a penalty of \$50 or \$100.

Potential Findings of Violation by Committee

Failure to Identify Candidates Supported by Expenditure and Amounts Spent to Promote Each Candidate

When a party committee makes an expenditure to influence the election of candidates, it is required to report the name of each candidate. 21-A M.R.S. § 1017-A(2)(A). Also, when a party committee makes an expenditure for a communication that influences the election of more than one candidate, it is required to itemize the amount spent per candidate. 94-270 C.M.R. ch. 1, § 7(7).

When the committee filed its campaign finance report due January 15, 2025, it disclosed the following details about its October 28, 2024 expenditure to Channel X:

| | | | | |
|------------|--|-------------------------|-----|------------|
| 10/28/2024 | Can X Us Broadcasting 152 East Green Ridge Road Caribou, ME, 04736 | "Election Day coverage" | RAD | \$1,999.00 |
|------------|--|-------------------------|-----|------------|

In the opinion of the Commission staff, this reporting did not fully meet disclosure requirements because the committee did not identify the candidates supported by the expenditure or the amounts spent to support each candidate. In the final section of this memo, we recommend findings of violation for this incomplete disclosure but no penalties.

Incomplete Disclaimer on Paid Message for Kevin Freeman and Other Candidates

When any person pays for a communication that expressly advocates for a candidate's election and the communication was authorized by the candidate, the communication must:

- include in the communication the name and address of the person who made the expenditure, and
- state that the communication was authorized by the candidate.

21-A M.R.S. § 1014(1).

The recorded message for Kevin Freeman that the Commission received from Channel X stated that it was "Paid for by the Aroostook County Democratic Committee." In the final section of this memo, the Commission staff recommends a finding that the ads violated the disclaimer requirements because they did not contain the address for the committee or a statement that it was authorized by the candidate.

Draft Guidance Memo

If the Commission agrees with the staff's recommended application of the party candidate listing, the Commission staff has prepared draft guidance memo to avoid similar errors in the future. The memo is attached directly after this memo.

Staff Recommendations

The Commission staff recommends that the Commission take the following actions:

Findings of violation

1. find that 2024 legislative candidates Dave McCrea, Roland Danny Martin, Vance McLaughlin, Melanie Tompkins, Kevin Freeman, and Matthew Rush violated

- 21-A M.R.S. § 1125(6) by accepting in-kind contributions of advertising time on Channel X;
2. find that the Aroostook Democratic County Committee violated 21-A M.R.S. § 1017-A(2)(A) and 94-270 C.M.R. ch. 1, § 7(7) because it did not disclose in its January 15, 2025 campaign finance report which candidates were supported by the October 28, 2024 expenditure of \$1,999 to Channel X and did not itemize the amounts spent to support each candidate; and
 3. find that the Aroostook Democratic County Committee violated 21-A M.R.S. § 1014(1) because the election day messages did not include the address of the committee and a statement that the candidates authorized the messages.

Penalties

The Commission may wish to consider whether to assess a penalty against the candidates pursuant to 21-A M.R.S. § 1127(1) for accepting an in-kind contribution contrary to the terms of the Maine Clean Election Act. Reasons for and against a penalty are set out on pages 6-7 of this memo. If the Commission is inclined to assess a penalty, Commission staff recommends it not exceed \$166, one-half of the value of the in-kind contribution received by each candidate.

The Commission staff recommends not assessing any penalties against the Aroostook Democratic County Committee for the disclosure violations. The committee's treasurer, Rick Asam, already used \$2,000 of his personal funds to pay the maximum penalties for the committee's failure to file the required 2024 campaign finance reports. Also, the disclaimer in the election day radio messages did contain the committee's name. The fact that the candidates recorded the radio messages implies that the messages were authorized by the candidates.



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

To: Aroostook County Candidates and Party Committees
Cc: Bennett Radio Group
From: Ethics Commission Staff
Date: September __, 2025
Re: Guidance on Paid Election Day Messages by Candidates

Compliant Way for Candidates to Participate in Paid Election Day Messages

In general, if a candidate has participated in a message on a broadcast station and the advertising time has been paid for by someone else, the candidate has received an in-kind contribution. This is not legal for Maine Clean Election Act candidates because they are not permitted to accept in-kind contributions after qualifying for public campaign funds. Traditionally financed candidates may accept an in-kind contribution only if the amount of the contribution is under the contribution limit (\$500 per election for legislative candidates in 2026) and the candidate lists the in-kind contribution in their campaign finance reports. *The simplest way for candidates to participate legally in broadcast messages on election day is to pay for the advertising time with their own campaign funds.*

Exception for a "Slate Card" Communication by a Party Committee

The Election Law has a special exception for a party committee that pays for a communication to voters that *refers to three or more candidates in a similar way* and is restricted to brief information about the candidates, the offices they are seeking, and voting information. This could be a mailing or a newspaper or broadcast ad, as long as three or more candidates are referred to in each communication received by voters. In these cases, the candidates have not received a contribution even if they provide a photo or message to be included in the communication. The Ethics Commission staff would be pleased to answer any questions about this exception.

Disclaimers

In general, a paid communication that advocates for candidates must include the name and address of the person who paid for the communication and must state whether or not the candidate authorized the communication. A communication paid for by the candidate may omit the candidate's address.

From: [Melanie Tompkins](#)
To: [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Re: Ethics Commission Notice of Sept. 24 Meeting
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 11:23:56 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

After reviewing the details in the letter from the Commission, I wanted to send more information. My personal campaign paid for advertising with Channel X radio, you can see the reported expenditure to Bennett Radio Group in my 11 Day Pre-General Report; this ad was separate from the recording that was played on election day. The recording that was paid for by the ADCC should meet the requirements for exception as it was "a recording of three or more candidates discussing certain topics".

On Wed, Aug 27, 2025 at 4:19 PM Wayne, Jonathan <Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov> wrote:

Dear Candidates,

Thank you for your cooperation with the Ethics Commission's investigation of a \$1,999 payment by the Aroostook Democratic County Committee for the broadcast of election day radio messages promoting your 2024 legislative campaigns. The members of the Commission will consider this matter at its meeting on September 24, 2025, 9:00 a.m., at the Commission's office in Augusta. The Commission staff intends to recommend that the Commission find you received an in-kind contribution in violation of the Maine Clean Election Act because the party committee provided you with advertising or broadcast time with an approximate value of \$333 at no charge. If the Commission finds that a violation occurred, it has the authority to assess a penalty. The Commission staff will recommend that any penalty not exceed \$166 (one-half of the value of the in-kind contribution), because the violation was unintentional. More information is included in the attached letter.

You are encouraged to submit any information or perspective that you would like the Commission to consider in advance of meeting. Please email any comments or statement to me by September 12, 2025. Also, you're encouraged to participate in the Commission's September 24 meeting by zoom. We will email you about zoom participation one week before the meeting. If you have any questions, please email me or call me at 287-4179.

Jonathan Wayne

Executive Director

Maine Ethics Commission

135 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

287-4179

From: **CanXus Broadcasting Corp** <channelxradio@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 28, 2024 at 4:37 PM

Subject: CHANNEL X RADIO PREP FOR ELECTION DAY BROADCAST

To: CanXus Broadcasting Corp <channelxradio@yahoo.com>

Cc: David McCrea <david.mccrea46@gmail.com>, Danny Martin

<dannymartin697@gmail.com>, samantha.phyllis.paradis@gmail.com

<samantha.phyllis.paradis@gmail.com>, KGFREEMAN79@GMAIL.COM

<KGFREEMAN79@gmail.com>, Kevin Freeman <kevin@thesledshopinc.com>,

mellyann11@gmail.com <mellyann11@gmail.com>, matthewrushforsenate@gmail.com

<matthewrushforsenate@gmail.com>, VMCLAUGHLIN77@GMAIL.COM

<VMCLAUGHLIN77@gmail.com>

HELLO TEAM D: HOPE WE CAN GATHER THIS THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT 3 PM FOR :60-:90 MINUTES TO RECORD THE ELECTION DAY RADIO PRESENTATIONS IN ADVANCE. STILL HAMMERING OUT A LOCATION BUT IT WILL BE IN CARIBOU IF THAT TIME FRAME WORKS FOR YOU AND OUR HOST: RICH MELLO.

RICHARD CHANDLER

Channel X Radio

WCXU WCXX WCXV W276AY

97.7 102.3 98.1 103.1FM

Bennett Radio Group

282 East Greenridge Road

Fort Fairfield, Maine, 04742

(207) 743-5911 phone

(800) 660-9298 toll free

Email:

channelxradio@yahoo.com

Website: channelxradio.com

Bennett Radio Group Invoice

Bennett Radio Group
243 Main Street
Norway, Maine 04268 USA

Order #: 3415-00002
Description: Election Day Coverage
Date Entered: 10/28/2024
P.O.#:
Salesperson: Bennett, Stan
Invoice Frequency: Billed at end of Media/EOS, Sorted by Date

Aroostook County Democrats

Other (Non-Spot) Charges

| <u>Start Date</u> | <u>End Date</u> | <u>Station</u> | <u>Description of Charge</u> | <u>Repeated</u> | <u>Qty</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 11/5/2024 | 11/5/2024 | WCXU-FM | Live Remote Broadcast X 18 | Monthly | 1 | 1999.00 | 1999.00 |

Order Start Date: 11/5/2024 Order End Date: 11/5/2024 Spots: 0 Total Charges: \$1,999.00

Projected Media Month/End-Of-Schedule Billing Totals for Aroostook County Democrats / 3415-00002 :

| | <u>Spot Count</u> | <u>Net Billing</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| November 2024 | 0 | \$1,999.00 |

Channel **X** Radio

Account NUMBER _____ Order NUMBER _____

New Order

Add Item

Change Item

Confirmation Needed

Cancel

Account Name AROOSTOOK COUNTY DEMOCRATS
ELECTION DAY COVERAGE

BUSINESS

Product code

Address

State

Zip

Contact _____ PH _____

PH

Affidavit

Notarize

Invoice/

| Local | Regional | Political | Cash | Trade | Donation |
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| 397 | 398 | 399 | 400 | 401 | 402 |
| 403 | 404 | 405 | 406 | 407 | 4 |

Total Week:

[illegible]

Account Exec.#

Acc't Exec Intial

18

Total Number of Commercials

Total Dollar Amount 18

\$1,999.00

Client Signature

X

Total Dollar Amount 18
 Cash with Order

- Cash with Order

11

Media Buy Spots

| <u>11/5/2024</u> | ELECTION DAY DEMOCRAT | SEGMENT | CHANNEL X RADIO |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <u>6:20 AM</u> | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |
| <u>6:30 AM</u> | VAUGHN MCLAUGHLIN | SENATE | CANDIDATE SS1 |
| <u>6:50 AM</u> | MATHEW RUSH | SENATE | CANDIDATE SS2 |
| <u>7:05 AM</u> | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |
| 7:20 AM | DANNY MARTIN | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D2 A |
| 7:30 AM | DAVE MCCREA | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D3 |
| 7:50 AM | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |
| 8:05 AM | KEVIN FREEMAN | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D5 |
| 8:20 AM | MELANIE THOMPkins | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D6 |
| 8:30 AM | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |
| 8:50 AM | VAUGHN MCLAUGHLIN | SENATE | CANDIDATE SS1 |
| 9:05 AM | MATHEW RUSH | SENATE | CANDIDATE SS2 |
| 9:20 AM | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |
| 9:30 AM | DANNY MARTIN | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D2 A |
| 9:50 AM | DAVE MCCREA | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D3 |
| 10:05 AM | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |
| 10:20 AM | KEVIN FREEMAN | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D5 |
| 10:30 AM | MELANIE THOMPkins | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D6 |
| 10:50 AM | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |
| 11:05 AM | VAUGHN MCLAUGHLIN | SENATE | CANDIDATE SS1 |
| 11:20 AM | MATHEW RUSH | SENATE | CANDIDATE SS2 |
| 11:30 AM | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |
| 11:50 AM | DANNY MARTIN | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D2 A |
| 12:05 PM | DAVE MCCREA | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D3 |
| 12:20 PM | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |
| 12:30 PM | KEVIN FREEMAN | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D5 |
| 12:50 PM | MELANIE THOMPkins | HOUSE | CANDIDATE D6 |
| 13:05 PM | TROY JACKSON | VOTE DEMOCRAT | NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATE/INCUMBANT PROMOTEI |

Transcript of Kevin Freeman Ad
Created from Audio Provided by Bennett Radio Group
Aired on Election Day 2024

Rich Mellow: Well, as we continue on this election day 2024 we're joined now by Kevin Freeman candidate for Maine House District 5. Kevin, welcome to the program. You're a familiar face and voice to many throughout the county.

Kevin Freeman: Well, it's good to be speaking with everyone here this morning as they're driving to the polls or having a cup of coffee and listening to all of the things that they've heard on radio, television, social media for the last 2 - 3 weeks, I'm sure that they've gotten the message from most of us. For me running for the state house was something really that I started thinking about halfway through my term as a city counselor. I've been on the Presque Isle city council for eight years and 96 meetings I've been to there and only two times did a representative or a senator from Augusta come and address our meetings. Twice out of 96 meetings. There's a definite disconnect between lawmakers in Augusta and municipal government. That needs to change and you know with what I have seen up here at Presque Isle, what we've been able to accomplish the last several years and what we hope to do it in the next several years from now we're gonna need a lot of help from the state in terms of funding, in terms of putting us in touch with resources to try to get some of these things done in Aroostook County. Aroostook's voice of the six or seven or so of us that are sitting in Augusta is equal to the 5, 6, 7 that are sitting in the state house from just the city of Portland so we vastly outnumbered voice wise and as was mentioned by some of the other candidates I totally agree that we need to come with a strong voice and each of us needs to pull weight. We cannot just simply sit in the chair and vote every once in a while. We need to come with issues that represents our district and be advocates for our neighbors in our friends here in Northern Maine. My district is a little unique that it's Presque Isle only. It's people that I've known for the last 50 years that I've lived here plus that I've grown up with, went to school with and I've represented on the city council. I wanted to do the same thing Augusta.

Rich Mellow: Kevin Freeman and of course you'll see his name on the ballot today as well for Maine House District 5, and of course, as you said, Kevin, your district encompassing Presque Isle there, the hub city we'll continue with the conversation with our Democratic candidates for the Maine State Senate and Maine State House on the election day 2024. I'm Rich Mellow on the Channel X radio network.

Voiceover Disclaimer: Paid for by the Aroostook County Democratic Committee.

Title 21-A: ELECTIONS

Chapter 13: CAMPAIGN REPORTS AND FINANCES

Subchapter 2: REPORTS ON CAMPAIGNS FOR OFFICE

§1012. Definitions

2. Contribution. The term "contribution:"

A. Includes:

- (1) A gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of any person to state, county or municipal office or for the purpose of liquidating any campaign deficit of a candidate, except that a loan of money to a candidate by a financial institution in this State made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business is not included;
- (2) A contract, promise or agreement, express or implied, whether or not legally enforceable, to make a contribution for such purposes;
- (3) Funds received by a candidate or a political committee that are transferred to the candidate or committee from another political committee or other source; and
- (4) The payment, by any person other than a candidate or a political committee, of compensation for the personal services of other persons that are provided to the candidate or political committee without charge for any such purpose

5. Party candidate listing. "Party candidate listing" means any communication that meets the following criteria.

- A. The communication lists the names of at least 3 candidates for election to public office.
- B. The communication is distributed through public advertising such as broadcast stations, cable television, newspapers and similar media, and through direct mail, telephone, electronic mail, publicly accessible sites on the Internet or personal delivery.
- C. The treatment of all candidates in the communication is substantially similar, except for any requirement under federal law applicable to communications regarding federal candidates.
- D. The content of the communication is limited to:

- (1) The identification of each candidate, with which pictures may be used;
- (2) The offices sought;
- (3) The offices currently held by the candidates;
- (4) The party affiliation of the candidates and a brief statement, including campaign slogans, about the party's or the candidates' positions, philosophy, goals, accomplishments or biographies;
- (5) Encouragement to vote for the candidates identified;
- (6) Information about voting, such as voting hours and locations; and
- (7) Campaign or party logos.

If the communication contains language outside the categories of this paragraph, it does not qualify as a party candidate listing.

§1014. Publication or distribution of political communications

1. Authorized by candidate. Whenever a person makes an expenditure to finance a communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate through broadcasting stations, cable television systems, newspapers, magazines, campaign signs or other outdoor advertising facilities, publicly accessible sites on the Internet, direct mails or other similar types of general public political advertising or through flyers, handbills, bumper stickers and other nonperiodical publications, the communication, if authorized by a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or their agents, must clearly and conspicuously state that the communication has been so authorized and must clearly state the name and address of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication. A communication financed by a candidate or the candidate's committee is not required to state the address of the candidate or committee that financed the communication. If a communication that is financed by someone other than the candidate or the candidate's authorized committee is broadcast by radio, only the city and state of the address of the person who financed the communication must be stated.

§1017-A. Reports of contributions and expenditures by party committees

2. Expenditures to influence a campaign. A party committee shall report all expenditures made to influence a campaign, as defined in [section 1052, subsection 1](#). The party committee shall report:

- A. The name of each candidate, political action committee, ballot question committee or party committee;
- B. The office sought by a candidate and the district that the candidate seeks to represent; and
- C. The date, amount and purpose of each expenditure.

Title 21-A: ELECTIONS

Chapter 14: THE MAINE CLEAN ELECTION ACT

§1125. Terms of participation

6. Restrictions on contributions and expenditures for certified candidates. After certification, a candidate must limit the candidate's campaign expenditures and obligations, including outstanding obligations, to the revenues distributed to the candidate from the fund and may not accept any contributions unless specifically authorized by the commission. Candidates may also accept and spend interest earned on fund revenues in campaign bank accounts. All revenues distributed to a certified candidate from the fund must be used for campaign-related purposes. The candidate, the treasurer, the candidate's committee authorized pursuant to [section 1013-A, subsection 1](#) or any agent of the candidate and committee may not use these revenues for any but campaign-related purposes. The candidate, the treasurer, the candidate's committee authorized pursuant to [section 1013-A, subsection 1](#) or any agent of the candidate and committee may not use these revenues for post-election parties. This section does not prohibit a candidate from using personal funds for post-election parties as governed by rules of the commission. The commission shall publish guidelines outlining permissible campaign-related expenditures.

§1127. Violations

1. Civil fine. In addition to any other penalties that may be applicable, a person who violates any provision of this chapter or rules of the commission adopted pursuant to [section 1126](#) is subject to a fine not to exceed \$10,000 per violation payable to the fund. In addition to any fine, for good cause shown, a candidate, treasurer, consultant or other agent of the candidate or the political committee authorized by the candidate pursuant to [section 1013-A, subsection 1](#) found in violation of this chapter or rules of the commission may be required to return to the fund all amounts distributed to the candidate from the fund or any funds not used for campaign-related purposes. If the commission makes a determination that a violation of this chapter or rules of the commission has occurred, the commission shall assess a fine or transmit the finding to the Attorney General for prosecution. A final determination by the commission may be appealed to Superior Court in accordance with [Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7](#) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80C. Fines assessed or orders for return of funds issued by the commission pursuant to this subsection that are not paid in full within 30 days after issuance of a notice of the final determination may be enforced in accordance with [section 1004-B](#). Fines paid under this section must be deposited in the fund. In determining

whether or not a candidate is in violation of the expenditure limits of this chapter, the commission may consider as a mitigating factor any circumstances out of the candidate's control.

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Chapter 1: PROCEDURES

SECTION 6. CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

4. Unless specifically exempted under Title 21-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1012 and 1052 or this section, the provision of any goods or services without charge or at a charge that is less than the usual and customary charge for such goods or services is an in-kind contribution. Examples of such goods and services include, but are not limited to: equipment, facilities, supplies, personnel, advertising, and campaign literature. If goods or services are provided at less than the usual and customary charge, the amount of the in-kind contribution is the difference between the usual and customary charge and the amount charged the candidate or political committee.

A. A commercial vendor that has provided a discount to a candidate or political committee because of a defect in performance or other business reason has not made a contribution if the vendor grants substantially similar discounts to other customers in the ordinary course of the vendor's business.

B. If a candidate is a public official who is provided a vehicle for transportation by a public entity for the purpose of conducting official duties, the use of such vehicle for campaign purposes is considered to be an in-kind contribution to the candidate from the public entity unless the candidate reimburses the public entity for the use of the vehicle.

SECTION 7. EXPENDITURES

7. When a political action committee or party committee makes an expenditure for a communication to voters for the purpose of influencing the election of a clearly identified candidate, the amount spent to influence that candidate's election must be specified on the regularly filed campaign finance report of the committee, regardless whether the communication expressly advocates for the election or defeat of the candidate. If a single expenditure influences the election of more than one candidate, the political action committee or party committee shall itemize the amount spent per candidate.