



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: February 17, 2026
Re: Request to Investigate Campaign of State Sen. James Libby

The Ethics Commission received a complaint concerning State Senator Jim Libby, who is running for the Republican nomination for Governor and is seeking to qualify for Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) funding. During the qualifying period which ends on April 1, 2026, he may fund campaign operations by receiving “seed money” contributions of up to \$250 from individuals. All services he receives must be paid for with seed money or be provided by volunteers. To qualify for gubernatorial campaign funding, he must collect 3,200 qualifying contributions (QCs) of \$5 from individuals who are documented as registered to vote in Maine. This requires a high degree of labor and organization, and is not easy.

Sen. Libby hired a consultant to manage certain projects for him during the qualifying period. In the course of a recorded telephone conversation, this consultant attempted to recruit someone to collect QCs for Sen. Libby by paying him “under the table” “through me.” This raises a concern whether any of Sen. Libby’s QC collectors were compensated with funds other than seed money, which would violate program requirements. The potential campaign worker did not accept the job.

After the complaint, Sen. Libby requested a meeting with Commission staff. He was obviously very disturbed by the consultant’s comments. He said he would conduct his own internal investigation. The risk of a violation is somewhat reduced because Sen. Libby believes that all eight or nine individuals collecting QCs for him are volunteers. If true, then there would be little or no concern of a seed money violation related to QC collection. He has gathered signed statements from seven QC collectors asserting they are volunteers. Nevertheless, the Commission staff suggests it may be advisable for staff to interview the QC collectors directly and possibly conduct additional investigation.

RELEVANT LAW

Qualifying for MCEA Funding

To qualify for MCEA funding, a 2026 candidate for Governor must collect 3,200 qualifying contributions from registered voters in Maine during a qualifying period. 21-A M.R.S. § 1125(3)(D)(1). For the 2026 elections, the qualifying period for gubernatorial candidates is October 15, 2025 to April 1, 2026. 21-A M.R.S. § 1122(8)(A). A “qualifying contribution” must be made with the contributor’s personal funds without anything of value being given to the contributor in exchange. 21-A M.R.S. § 1122(7)(D).

Seed Money Restrictions

Prior to qualifying for public campaign funds (“certification”), a candidate may only receive and spend seed money contributions. All goods and services received prior to certification must be paid for with seed money contributions, except for goods and services that are excluded from the definition of contribution. 21-A M.R.S. § 1125(2-A)(first sentence & paragraph A).

Certification by Executive Director

When a candidate submits their qualifying materials for MCEA funding, the Commission’s executive director is directed to determine whether the candidate has complied with a number of requirements, including whether the candidate has met all seed money restrictions and has not submitted any fraudulent qualifying contributions. 21-A M.R.S. § 1125(5)(D).

Standard for initiating an investigation

The Commission is required to review every request to investigate an alleged violation of campaign finance law and to conduct an “investigation if the reasons stated for the request show sufficient grounds for believing that a violation may have occurred.” 21-A M.R.S. § 1003(2).

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Sen. Libby's Consultant

Phil Hendricks is a consultant who does business as Mainely Strategies. He hires people to collect signatures on petitions to qualify candidates and citizen initiatives for the ballot. The recorded telephone conversation at issue was initiated by Mr. Hendricks to someone who *already* worked for him collecting petition signatures. He recruited some of the eight individuals who are collecting QCs for Sen. Libby.

Complaint by David Jones

The complaint was filed by David Jones, who is also seeking the Republican nomination for Governor. On February 4, 2026, Mr. Jones sent out a release to the news media raising concerns about a potential legal violation by Sen. Libby, along with a 16-minute audio file of Phil Hendricks trying to recruit the campaign worker by phone. The following morning, Mr. Jones filed a complaint with our office.

During the conversation, Mr. Hendricks offers to compensate the other person for collecting QCs “under the table” “through me.” This discussion begins 2 minutes, 26 seconds into the audio recording. The proposed rate of pay is: for every 250 QCs collected by the worker, Mr. Hendricks would increase the worker’s rate of pay per petition signature by \$1 per signature. As noted above, an MCEA candidate must pay for all services received prior to certification with seed money contributions of up to \$250 from individuals or receive the services from volunteers. Mr. Jones asks the Commission to investigate whether any of Sen. Libby’s QC collectors have been paid from sources other than seed money. Mr. Jones also suggests the Commission investigate whether the money for his QCs came from any source other than the personal funds of the contributors and any other violations of the MCEA.

Written Response by Jim Libby and Written Statements by QC Collectors

Jim Libby is a long-time Maine legislator who is currently serving in the State Senate. He qualified for MCEA funding as a candidate for Governor in 2000, the first year in which it was available. In his response, he writes that his participation in the

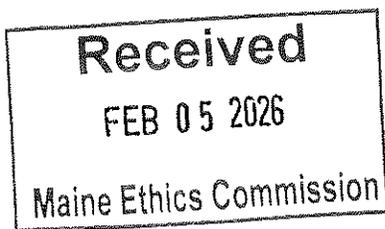
program has always been a particular point of pride for him. He states he would never condone the funding of QC collectors “under the table” and insists everyone in his campaign act in the same honorable manner as he does.

After the complaint was filed, Sen. Libby requested a meeting with Commission staff, which turned into a preliminary investigative interview. Sen. Libby regrets that his campaign ethics have been brought into question by the comments of his consultant. He believes everyone collecting QCs for him is a volunteer. Sen. Libby has surveyed these collectors to confirm whether they received any compensation. He has submitted signed statements from seven of his campaign workers who say their work is “purely voluntarily” and they have not “been coerced in any way to volunteer for the Libby campaign by being paid or promised money from other sources.” Sen. Libby may submit additional information before or at the Commission’s next meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

When public funds are potentially being used to fund political campaigns, it is important for taxpayers and the Legislature to know that the State of Maine will insist on very high standards of compliance before those funds are released. To qualify for MCEA funding, Sen. Libby will need to turn in 3,200 valid QCs by April 1, 2026, which is five weeks after your February 25 meeting. After that, Sen. Libby is eligible to receive MCEA funding *only if* I certify that he has met the seed money and other requirements of the program. Sen. Libby would be able to appeal a staff denial to the Commission.

In this context, the Commission staff suggests that further investigation by staff is advisable to be assured that Sen. Libby’s collection of QCs complies with seed money restrictions. For example, we believe it may be helpful to interview the QC collectors ourselves. If the Commission authorizes such an investigation, we suggest that the focus should be on any potential seed money violations, but the staff should be alert to any other violation of the MCEA that could have occurred.



David Jones for Governor
Falmouth, ME 04105
Email: david@jones2026.com
Phone: (207) 650-3455

February 5, 2026

Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Formal Complaint

Alleged Violations of the Maine Clean Election Act by the Jim Libby for Governor Campaign, Including Potential Improper Collection of Qualifying Contributions

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you as David Jones, a candidate for Governor of the State of Maine in the upcoming election, to formally lodge a complaint regarding serious concerns about potential violations of Maine's Clean Election Act (MCEA) by the Jim Libby for Governor campaign, specifically involving its Campaign Manager.

As you are aware, the MCEA requires that qualifying contributions -essential for a candidate to demonstrate community support and access substantial public matching funds - must be made from the personal funds of individual contributors (registered voters in Maine for gubernatorial candidates). Contributions cannot be reimbursed, funneled through undisclosed sources, or provided "under the table" in a manner that misrepresents the true source of the funds. Such practices would constitute fraud, misrepresentation, and violations of the Act, potentially

disqualifying the candidate from certification and jeopardizing the disbursement of taxpayer-funded public matching funds.

My campaign has been provided with credible evidence in the form of an audio recording that appears to implicate the Libby campaign's Campaign Manager in discussions related to the collection of qualifying contributions using funds from undisclosed sources provided under the table. This recording was made by an individual who previously worked as a petition circulator and had prior professional dealings with the Libby campaign manager. The conversation, originally documented to address pay rates and workload issues, reportedly included statements raising direct concerns about compliance with MCEA requirements for qualifying contributions.

The audio recording was sent to the Ethics Commission in advance on a press release. I believe this evidence warrants immediate investigation to determine at minimum whether:

1. Were contractors paid 'under the table' to collect Qualifying Contributions with funds outside the Libby campaign? Were Qualifying Contributions collected by contractors by the Libby campaign funded or reimbursed by sources other than the contributors' personal funds.
2. Was there any misrepresentation of the source or purpose of these contributions?
3. Were there any other violations of the MCEA or related campaign finance laws that occurred?

I understand that the Libby campaign may submit its qualifying contributions as early as February 5th 2026, which could trigger access to hundreds of thousands of dollars in public matching funds from the Maine Clean Election Fund - taxpayer dollars intended to support compliant, transparent campaigns.

Proceeding with submission and certification before a thorough investigation risks irreparable harm to public confidence in the integrity of the Clean Elections process and the proper stewardship of public funds. If \$600,000 or more in public funds were awarded to a campaign that did not fully comply with the rules and statutes governing the MCEA, it would undermine the program's foundational principles.

I respectfully request that the Commission:

- Immediately open an investigation into these allegations.
- Review the audio recording and any related evidence.
- Take appropriate steps to prevent or delay the acceptance of qualifying contributions from the Libby campaign, or the disbursement of any public funds, until the facts are fully examined and any violations are resolved.
- Provide a prompt update on the status of this complaint.

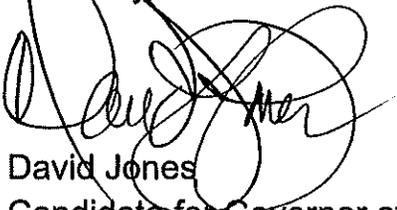
My campaign has released this information to the media and filing this complaint not to damage any political opponent, but to safeguard the integrity of our elections and protect taxpayer money. We are committed to opposing fraud and misconduct at every level of government and holding all candidates, including those within my own party, accountable under the law.

Fraud at any level, by anyone, will not be tolerated. I am hopeful that the Commission will act swiftly and transparently to investigate these serious matters, ensure full compliance with the Maine Clean Election Act, and protect the public trust.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I am available to provide any additional information, answer questions, or meet with Commission staff as needed.

Please direct any correspondence or requests to me at the contact information above, or to my campaign contact, John Andrews, at john@jones2026.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Jones", written over a circular scribble.

David Jones
Candidate for Governor of Maine
David Jones for Governor Campaign

Jim Libby for Governor

PO Box 823, Standish, Maine 04083

jimlibbyforgovernor@gmail.com

(207) 289-7413

February 9, 2026

Executive Director Wayne and Members of the Commission,

My name is Jim Libby, representing the Jim Libby for Governor campaign. It is an honor to write to you today.

Thank you for informing me of concerns about my campaign that were expressed by the Jones for Governor campaign. While my initial reaction was that this complaint was intended for political gain, my review of a recorded telephone call elevated the matter in my mind. I consider this a serious matter.

My support of the enactment of the program of "Clean Elections" and my 2002 participation in the program have always been a particular point of pride for me. It is ironic and disappointing to me that the Libby Campaign is now subject to a complaint. From a personal standpoint, my integrity matters to me. I ask volunteers to represent my campaign in the same honorable manner that I do. I feel badly that my reputation is suddenly in question due to a complaint about a person that I have relied upon.

First, the Commission should know that I rely on people to assure that my campaign is run with the same integrity and openness that has characterized my decades of public service. I am a full-time professor and a state senator. I run a modest campaign using hustle and grit.

In order to respond directly to the allegations in the Jones for Governor letter, I have reviewed the Jones letter, a previous oral complaint about an expenditure communicated to me by the Jones campaign, my campaign's finances and operations, and an audio recording provided to me by the Commission staff that is part of the complaint that you are evaluating.

Regarding the campaign operation, I find some validity to the complaint about oral comments. I do not, and will not condone any person working for my campaign discussing any act that may be interpreted as illegal. The recording seemed innocent enough until I heard the term, "under-the-table." If carried out, this would not be lawful.

Other than limited project work, my campaign relies on volunteers, my personal telephone calls and electronic means to help up collect the 3200 qualifying donations that are required to become a "Clean Elections" candidate. My goal is to qualify for additional distributions as well.

My continuing review of operations will include a polling of the campaign volunteers. I have decided to poll the them to be sure that no improprieties have occurred in carrying out "Qualifying Contribution" collection duties, which has driven the need for campaign volunteers. The volunteer poll has been written by me, and the goal is to complete it in time for the February 25th hearing. I have contacted two volunteers thus far, and orally that have told me that they have not accepted any money or value for helping to solicit contributions. My single-question, signed poll is intended to assure that no campaign volunteer received payment work has these services, other than compensation for travel from the campaign when requested.

I have previously mandated to all involved in my campaign that the five-dollar contributions that need to be collected to qualify for Clean Elections funding be collected from individuals by our volunteers freely, with

nothing in return. It's not easy. Several people who support the campaign have declined to volunteer until after I qualify for the Clean Elections program, citing that they cannot afford to volunteer for no compensation.

Phil Hendricks has assisted with my campaign. He runs an operation called Mainely Strategies, and he came recommended by people involved in political organization and campaign activities. I felt comfortable when Phil interviewed that he had a good track record and an excellent understanding of campaigns. He is particularly known for carrying out signature gathering for federal and state candidates as well as referenda signature drives and other groundwork. I am aware that he has many clients who contract with Mainely Strategies and have personally worked to assure that my contributions are collected according to the law.

The telephone recording that I reviewed is troubling to me. I have relied on Mr. Hendricks, the subject recorded in a telephone conversation that discussed campaign tasks. I asked Mr. Hendricks directly if any money was paid to any person "under the table." His response was "no."

I have responded by clearly stating to Mr. Hendricks that improper comments that could run afoul of the law will not be tolerated. Further, I am not interested in recruiting people who work for other campaigns, as that seemed to be the purpose of the conversation.

Members of my campaign team have stated to me that recording telephone conversations and private conversations in public forums feels unethical and should be illegal. They also assert that having a third person involved in recording without the parties' consent is illegal. They express discomfort in the past when Mr. Jones coordinates with campaign staff and is wired during public meetings and appearances. I have witnessed this live wiring on several occasions. Multiple staff people working on the Jones campaign are clearly seen working on public recordings. Some volunteers were shocked to find out that Maine does not require consent from all parties to record telephone conversations, as other states do. I have pledged to not record people during my campaign, either in public forums or on the telephone. I plan to now remind volunteers to be fully aware of the potential for unethical recordings now that we have experienced it first-hand. I can infer from the recording that the conversation in question occurred months ago, and I wish I had known. I could have acted earlier on this problem.

In my review of operations, I examined our financial reports, since Jones seems to be implying in the complaint that there are other problems with my campaign operations. The Jones campaign made an oral complaint directly to me in a January call from a representative who appears to be authorized to engage in activities on Jones' behalf in the Jones campaign report. The oral complaint was that my campaign did not pay for advertising decals.

I replied immediately in the telephone conversation that I authorized that \$100 be spent on the 3 days of participation in a Maine Motorsports show. We paid \$100 for the decals to be printed and affixed, and that it was in my report as required by law. I designed the decal image and emailed it out. The campaign decals with my name were affixed over other decals on a stock car displayed at a Maine Motorsports event. We asked around at the event and found that ads are often sold for \$100, particularly when the ad is pre-designed and overlaid or affixed to a car. The decal's graphics were sent to a retired graphics employee who had a machine to print them out. He does not currently operate a full-time business. The first time I ever met this person was at the event. I was told that he and the stock car owner jointly placed my advertisement on a slick-looking car that is widely-known for its promotion of veterans. The decals were placed over the other artwork already on the stock car. It looked great. One hundred dollars seemed reasonable to me given my design effort. I think people in the Jones campaign must have looked at the car and thought that we designed all of the veteran tribute graphics. We did not. That was already on the car, along with other decals. We have nothing to do with that. Nevertheless, and against my better judgement, I have decided to offer \$100 more dollars to the car owner so that I can say that I have responded to the Jones Campaign's misguided and uninformed complaint. I will report the \$100

additional expenditure on the next report, or as an amendment to a previously submitted report. I will ask Commission staff to inform me of their preference. I view the whole kerfuffle as de minimis.

My treasurer has worked with me to provide documents that fully represent all of our campaign's financial activity, which demonstrates achievement of our goals. Finances are aligned with our activity. I have been a frequent visitor to the Commission's offices in an attempt to be transparent during the complex process of reporting, as well as in the particularly difficult task of collecting the Clean Elections qualifying contributions. I will continue to be transparent and attentive to the process but would like to point out that the \$100-dollar cap on contributions that was recently raised to \$250 is damaging to a publicly financed gubernatorial candidate. I do realize that the Commission must follow the law, but I intend to ask the next Legislature to review this incredibly low contribution cap that handicaps gubernatorial campaigns. It currently takes us ten donations to every one individual donation that traditional candidates are allowed. That ratio was more than 20-to-one when the cap was \$100.

I do find that changes should be made to my campaign organization. I will direct Mr. Hendricks to take a leave of absence from management projects related to my campaign. My observation is that his projects are difficult, high-pressured, and that the telephone recording revealed that he has made a significant error in judgement at the very least. Phil Hendricks is a human being, and we all make mistakes. This mistake is significant; therefore, I will begin a search for an interim chair as well.

I currently do not plan to file a counter-complaint against the Jones campaign, although I reserve the right to change my mind. The thousands of unaccounted-for hours that Mr. Jones spends as a publicly "self-professed" radio co-host gives him an incredibly unfair campaign advantage, while he complains about a \$100 reported expenditure for a pre-designed decal by me. I see no in-kind accounting in the most recent statement for the tens-of-thousands of dollars of campaign value he enjoyed for the six-month reporting period co-hosting a radio show, while other candidates can only come in to the radio studio for guest interviews. I have paid for advertising time on his "co-hosted" show. What a rip-off. I read the legal definition of a contribution being "anything of value" that influences an election in Title 21-A, and I encourage the Commission to explore whether radio hosting should be reported as an in-kind contribution by the Station. At the very least, he should have stepped away from broadcasting at the beginning of his campaign. It would have been the right thing to do.

Mr. Jones also makes public statements about his opposition to the Clean Election's program. He has a right to do so. However, in my opinion, he is trying to damage my campaign and the Clean Elections program in a single political swipe. Congratulations to the Jones campaign on achieving their goal.

To summarize to the Commission, as a human being I attempt to live my life to the highest ethical standards, and I expect anyone that represents me to do the same. While I can't control what people say and do, I am diligent in insisting on good behavior, etiquette, and knowledge of the law. Transgression will not be tolerated; mistakes will be examined and treated as a learning opportunity. I will be personally polling my volunteers and will ask them to sign a form indicating whether they have received funds improperly for working on my campaign. The plan is to have that ready for our February 25th meeting.

My sincere thanks to the Commission and staff members for the time and energy dedicated to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim

James D. Libby, Ph.D.

Candidate for Governor

The following statement requires a yes/no response. It is designed to ensure that we monitor results and inform the Commission on Ethics and Elections practices that we are following law.

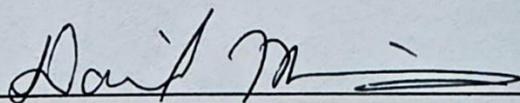
Yes or no – Is your work with the Libby Campaign purely voluntary?

Response Yes

Yes or no - Have you been coerced in any way to volunteer for the Libby campaign by being paid or promised money from other sources?

Response No

Feel free to comment here:

Signature 

Print Name: Daniel Morris

Date 2/12/2026

The following statement requires a yes/no response. It is designed to ensure that we monitor results and inform the Commission on Ethics and Elections practices that we are following law.

Yes or no – Is your work with the Libby Campaign purely voluntary?

Response yes

Yes or no - Have you been coerced in any way to volunteer for the Libby campaign by being paid or promised money from other sources?

Response NO

Feel free to comment here:

Signature Jason Antis

Print Name: JASON ANTIS

Date ~~2-12-26~~ 2-12-26

Important:

Please respond by tomorrow evening. A signature and date is required. Print this out, sign,

take a picture of it, and attach it to this text, or to jimlibbyforgovernor@gmail.com

The following statement requires a yes/no response. It is designed to ensure that we monitor results and inform the Commission on Ethics and Elections practices that we are following law.

Yes or no – Is your work with the Libby Campaign purely voluntary?

Response Yes

Yes or no - Have you been coerced in any way to volunteer for the Libby campaign by being paid or promised money from other sources?

Response NO

Feel free to comment here:

Signature Brian Leavitt

Print Name: Brian Leavitt

Date 2-12-2026

Important:

Please respond by tomorrow evening. A signature and date is required. Print this out, take a picture of it, and attach it to this text, or to jimlibbyforgovernor@gmail.com

The following statement requires a yes/no response. It is designed to ensure that we monitor results and inform the Commission on Ethics and Elections practices that we are following law.

Yes or no - Is your work with the Libby Campaign purely voluntary?

Response yes

Yes or no - Have you been coerced in any way to volunteer for the Libby campaign by being paid or promised money from other sources?

Response No

Feel free to comment here:

Signature Olivia Ground

Print Name: Olivia Ground

Date 2-12-26

Important:

Please respond by tomorrow evening. A signature and date is required. Print this out, sign, take a picture of it, and attach it to this text, or to jimlibbyforgovernor@gmail.com

The following statement requires a yes/no response. It is designed to ensure that we monitor results and inform the Commission on Ethics and Elections practices that we are following law.

Yes or no – Is your work with the Libby Campaign purely voluntary?

Response Yes

Yes or no - Have you been coerced in any way to volunteer for the Libby campaign by being paid or promised money from other sources?

Response No

Feel free to comment here:

Signature Lindsey Crawford

Print Name: Lindsey Crawford

Date Feb 14 2026

The following statement requires a yes/no response. It is designed to ensure that we monitor results and inform the Commission on Ethics and Elections practices that we are following law.

Yes or no – Is your work with the Libby Campaign purely voluntary?

Response yes

Yes or no - Have you been coerced in any way to volunteer for the Libby campaign by being paid or promised money from other sources?

Response No

Feel free to comment here:

Signature Shamar Wickel

Print Name: Shamar Wickel

Date 2/12/26

Important:

Please respond by tomorrow evening. A signature and date is required. Print this out, sign, take a picture of it, and attach it to this text, or to jimlibbyforgovernor@gmail.com

The following statement requires a yes/no response. It is designed to ensure that we monitor results and inform the Commission on Ethics and Elections practices that we are following law.

Yes or no – Is your work with the Libby Campaign purely voluntary?

Response yes

Yes or no - Have you been coerced in any way to volunteer for the Libby campaign by being paid or promised money from other sources?

Response NO

Feel free to comment here:

Signature Silas Schrader

Print Name: Silas Schrader

Date 2/16/26

Title 21-A: ELECTIONS

Chapter 13: CAMPAIGN REPORTS AND FINANCES

Subchapter 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

§1003. Investigations by commission

1. Investigations. The commission may undertake audits and investigations to determine whether a person has violated this chapter, [chapter 14](#) or the rules of the commission. For this purpose, the commission may subpoena witnesses and records whether located within or without the State and take evidence under oath. A person or entity that fails to obey the lawful subpoena of the commission or to testify before it under oath must be punished by the Superior Court for contempt upon application by the Attorney General on behalf of the commission. The Attorney General may apply on behalf of the commission to the Superior Court or to a court of another state to enforce compliance with a subpoena issued to a nonresident person. Service of any subpoena issued by the commission may be accomplished by:

A. Delivering a duly executed copy of the notice to the person to be served or to a partner or to any officer or agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process on behalf of that person;

B. Delivering a duly executed copy of the notice to the principal place of business in this State of the person to be served; or

C. Mailing by registered or certified mail a duly executed copy of the notice, addressed to the person to be served, to the person's principal place of business.

2. Investigations requested. A person may apply in writing to the commission requesting an investigation as described in [subsection 1](#). The commission shall review the application and shall make the investigation if the reasons stated for the request show sufficient grounds for believing that a violation may have occurred. ...

Title 21-A: ELECTIONS

Chapter 14: THE MAINE CLEAN ELECTION ACT

§1122. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. ...

7. Qualifying contribution. "Qualifying contribution" means a donation:

- A. Of \$5 or more in the form of cash, a check or a money order payable to the fund and signed by the contributor in support of a candidate or a payment made over the Internet in support of a candidate according to the procedure established by the commission;
- B. Made by a registered voter within the electoral division for the office a candidate is seeking and whose voter registration has been verified according to procedures established by the commission;
- C. Made during the designated qualifying period; and
- D. That the contributor acknowledges was made with the contributor's personal funds and in support of the candidate and was not given in exchange for anything of value and that the candidate acknowledges was obtained with the candidate's knowledge and approval and that nothing of value was given in exchange for the contribution, on forms provided by the commission.

Title 21-A: ELECTIONS

Chapter 14: THE MAINE CLEAN ELECTION ACT

§1125. Terms of participation

2-A. Seed money restrictions. To be eligible for certification, a participating candidate may collect and spend only seed money contributions subsequent to becoming a candidate and prior to certification. A participating candidate may not solicit, accept or collect seed money contributions after certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate.

A. All goods and services received prior to certification must be paid for with seed money contributions, except for goods and services that are excluded from the definition of contribution in [section 1012, subsection 2, paragraph B](#). It is a violation of this chapter for a certified candidate to use fund revenues received after certification to pay for goods and services received prior to certification. ...

3. Qualifying contributions. The collection of qualifying contributions is governed by this subsection.

A. [PL 2019, c. 323, §29 (RP).]

B. [PL 2019, c. 323, §29 (RP).]

C. [PL 2019, c. 323, §29 (RP).]

D. To be eligible to receive funding from the fund, participating candidates must obtain qualifying contributions during the qualifying period as follows:

(1) For a gubernatorial candidate, at least 3,200 verified registered voters of this State must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate;

(2) For a candidate for the State Senate, at least 175 verified registered voters from the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate; or

(3) For a candidate for the State House of Representatives, at least 60 verified registered voters from the candidate's electoral division must support the candidacy by providing a qualifying contribution to that candidate. ...

5. Certification of Maine Clean Election Act candidates. Upon receipt of a final submittal of qualifying contributions by a participating candidate, the executive director of the commission shall determine whether the candidate has:

- A. Signed and filed a declaration of intent to participate in this Act;
- B. Submitted the appropriate number of valid qualifying contributions;
- C. Qualified as a candidate by petition or other means no later than 5 business days after the end of the qualifying period;
- C-1. [IB 2015, c. 1, §20 (RP).]
- D. Not accepted contributions, except for seed money contributions, and otherwise complied with seed money restrictions;
- D-1. Not run for the same office as a nonparticipating candidate in a primary election in the same election year;
- D-2. Not been found to have made a material false statement in a report or other document submitted to the commission;
- D-3. Not otherwise substantially violated the provisions of this chapter or [chapter 13](#);
- D-4. Not failed to pay any civil penalty assessed by the commission under this Title, except that a candidate has 3 business days from the date of the request for certification to pay the outstanding penalty and remain eligible for certification;
- D-5. Not submitted any fraudulent qualifying contributions or any falsified acknowledgement forms for qualifying contributions or seed money contributions; and
- E. Otherwise met the requirements for participation in this Act.

The executive director shall certify a candidate complying with the requirements of this section as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate as soon as possible after final submittal of qualifying contributions and other supporting documents required under subsection 4 but no later than 3 business days for legislative candidates and 5 business days for gubernatorial candidates. The executive director may take additional time if further investigation is necessary to verify compliance with this Act as long as the commission notifies the candidate regarding the anticipated schedule for conclusion of the investigation. A candidate or other interested person may appeal the decision of the executive director to the members of the commission in accordance with subsection 14.