



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 18, 2025
Re: Working Group on Disclosure Requirements

At the Commission's January 29, 2025 meeting, the Commission voted in favor of convening a stakeholder group to discuss issues about campaign finance reporting toward the end of the election season to try to uncomplicate them by making recommendations for statute or rule changes. The Commission asked staff to summarize the January 29th discussion for review at the next meeting.

The Commission's consensus was that organizing a working group would be worthwhile. The Commission was in favor of an informal group that would not result in any cost to the Legislature. The group would be non-partisan or bipartisan. In addition to the deadlines for 24-Hour and Independent Expenditure Reports, the group would discuss whether training of candidates and others by videoconference would be helpful. The Commission discussed different constituencies that could participate in the group:

- Representation by candidates
- Representatives of PACs, potentially attorneys Josh Tardy and Lisa Prosienski
- Legislative representation
- Advocates for Clean Elections (staff notes that, potentially, this could be a Democracy Maine, which is a collaboration between the League of Women Voters of Maine, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, and Maine Students Vote)
- Citizens groups that would balance representation by attorneys/political professionals
- Office of Attorney General and Commission staff.

If Commissioners could provide any more definition on citizens groups, Commission staff would welcome that. For example, would it be helpful to have a "retired" Legislator who has some familiarity with campaign finance reporting but now experiences campaign disclosures from the perspective of a private citizen? Thank you.