



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

**Agenda**

**Meeting of February 17, 2004**

9:00 a.m., Commission Offices, 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine

**ROUTINE BUSINESS**

- 1. Ratification of minutes of October 15, 2004 and October 20, 2004 meetings**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 2. Staff Update on Funding for the Maine Clean Election Act**

- 3. Completion of 2004 Major Substantive Rule-Making**

On February 11, 2004, the Commission provisionally adopted major substantive rules that it submitted to the Legislature for its consideration. The Legislature passed a resolution directing the Commission to adopt changes to the rules, and required that the rules not take effect until after January 1, 2005. The Commission Director and Counsel drafted amended rules as directed by the Legislature. The staff now recommends final adoption of the rules.

- 4. Proposed Combined Form for Candidate Registration/Declaration of Intent/Voluntary Spending Limits**

Commission members have proposed combining three of the forms that candidates typically file with the Commission when they begin their campaigns. The staff is seeking feedback on a proposed combined form.

- 5. Proposed Changes to Commission Bill**

The Ethics Commission's bill making various changes to the Election Law has not been returned to the Commission by the Revisor's Office for red-lining. The Commission staff proposes making three additions to the bill through the red-lining process.

- 6. Proposed Rules for Public Comment**

The staff proposes that the Commission adopt amendments of its rules for public comment, and that the Commission hold a public hearing in March.

- 7. Dates of Public Hearing for Rule-Making and Future Meetings**

**8. Proposed Changes to Candidate Reporting Form (part of rule-making)**

The staff will present to the Commission members proposed changes to the candidate reporting form, which can only be amended through a major substantive rule-making.

**9. Proposed Changes to Expenditure Guidelines**

The staff proposes making changes to the official expenditure guidelines for Maine Clean Election Act candidates in the 2006 elections. The changes respond to candidates' expenditures in the 2004 elections, and seek to clarify certain categories of expenditures that may not be made with public funds.

**10. Appointments to the Commission**

The staff seeks the approval of the Commission members on sending a letter notifying the Governor and Legislative Leaders about vacancies on the Commission.

**11. Operational Change: Establishing MCEA Bank Accounts**

In response to a suggestion by a member of the Commission's oversight committee, the Commission staff seeks feedback on opening bank accounts for Maine Clean Election Act candidates in the 2006 elections at a financial institution in Maine. Public funds payments could be transferred from a master bank account within the bank to the candidates' accounts. This would allow the Commission to transfer only those funds the candidate was authorized to spend, and could eliminate the payment of more than \$1 million in unauthorized matching funds to candidates that the candidates now repay after the election. The bank accounts would also make payments of public funds easier: the transfers would be immediate and would not involve the mailing of checks or overnight electronic wires. The transfers could be made outside of business hours through web banking, including on the weekend before the election.

**12. Information on Leadership PACs Requested by Commission Members**

At the January meeting, the Commission members requested information regarding leadership PACs.

**Other**

Miscellaneous as needed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

If necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT**