**94-270**

**COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES**

Maine Administrative Procedure Act

2017-2018 Regulatory Agenda

November 2, 2017 *(amended April 25, 2018)*

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **94-270**

AGENCY NAME: **Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices**

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**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA**: None

**2017-2018 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**CHAPTER 3**: Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1 M.R.S. §1003; 21-A M.R.S. §1126

PURPOSE: Chapter 3 establishes procedures to implement the *Maine Clean Election Act* (MCEA), which is Title 21-A, Chapter 14 of the *Maine Revised Statutes*. Under this law, candidates for Governor and the Legislature may qualify to receive public funds for their political campaigns. To be eligible for MCEA funding, candidates must collect a minimum number of qualifying contributions from registered voters in the electoral division for the office sought by the candidate.

The Commission may amend its rules to allow candidates to enter the names and addresses of these contributors on an online service, which would verify whether the contributors are registered to vote. Candidates would not need to submit forms to their municipal registrars of voters to verify the contributors' voter registration. The Commission may further amend its rules to allow candidates in an election covered by ranked choice voting to collect and spend primary election contributions through the Secretary of State’s submission of a tabulation of votes to the Governor, and allow candidates to collect limited donations for purposes of a recount or to challenge the results of a recount.

EXPECTED SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: By ~~April~~ May 2018.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Prospective candidates for the office of Governor, State Senator, or State Representative, and the general public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: None expected.