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Maine Code of Election Ethics Poster 1996

Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center

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MAINE CODE OF ELECTION

Ethics

PURPOSE:

To encourage substantive issue-oriented electoral campaigns in Maine which will educate the Maine voter and will help to improve the quality of dialogue about public policy.

ASSUMPTIONS:

Electoral campaigns in Maine and throughout the nation are subject to unacceptable levels of negativism, attack advertising, and other practices which demean representative democracy.

Negative campaigns are directly related to the cynicism, alienation, and decreasing participation rates among American voters. We all have a stake in positive electoral processes—the centerpiece of civil society.

Each candidate is responsible for fair and ethical practices by or on behalf of his/her campaign.

Five core values are fundamental to our society and are widely shared throughout Maine: honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness, and compassion.

PRINCIPLES OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES:

My campaign will be committed to the principles of honesty, fairness, respect for my opponent, responsibility, and compassion.

Senatorial Candidates:

STEPHEN M. BOST (INDEPENDENT)

JOSEPH E. BRENNAN (DEMOCRAT)

WILLIAM P. CLARKE (TAXPAYERS)

SUSAN M. COLLINS (REPUBLICAN)

JOHN C. RENSENBRINK (INDEPENDENT)

Congressional Candidates (First District):

THOMAS H. ALLEN (DEMOCRAT)

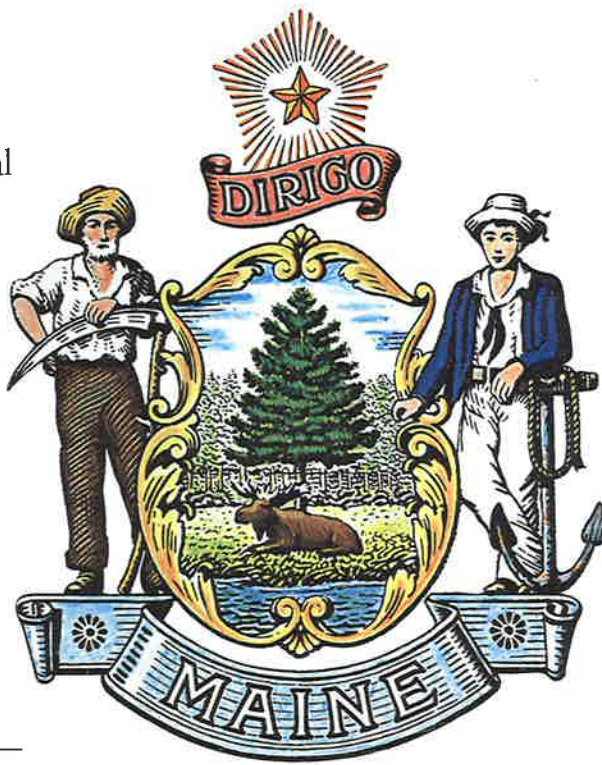
JAMES B. LONGLEY, JR. (REPUBLICAN)

Congressional Candidates (Second District):

JOHN E. BALDACCI (DEMOCRAT)

ALDRIC SAUCIER (INDEPENDENT)

PAUL R. YOUNG (REPUBLICAN)



Honesty and Fairness

I shall emphasize my views, beliefs, and experiences. I am committed to an open and public discussion of issues and to presenting my record with sincerity and frankness.

I shall not use or agree to let third parties use subtle deceptions, half-truths, falsifications, or such practices as push polling. If such practices are used by third parties without my approval, I shall repudiate it immediately and publicly upon my knowledge of its occurrence.

Factual claims made by my campaign will be supported by publicly available documents provided by my campaign office.

Respect

I shall avoid demeaning references to my opponent and demeaning visual images of my opponent.

I shall respect my opponent. I shall not use or allow to be used personal attacks, innuendo, or stereotyping.

Responsibility

I shall ensure that my campaign staff and campaign supporters will observe these principles of fair campaign practices. I take full responsibility for all advertising created or used on my behalf by staff and supporters.

I shall conduct my campaign openly and publicly, discussing the issues as I see them, presenting my record and policies with sincerity and frankness, and criticizing without fear and without malice the record and policies of my opponent and his or her political party that merit such criticism.

I will not condone or allow third-party advertising which does not meet the principles contained in this document. If such practices are used by third parties without my approval, I shall repudiate it immediately and publicly upon my knowledge of its occurrence.

Compassion

In the conduct of my candidacy, I shall show compassion at all times for my opponent. I shall remember that the campaign process is fundamental to representative democracy and that my behavior in the campaign affects the integrity of our society.

Dated this 6th day of August
1996