



March 23, 2004

Dear Clean Elections Allies:

The enclosed report contains the major conclusions that we discovered in our analysis of the impact of Clean Elections on women candidates in Maine and Arizona. One critical tool for this analysis has been the development of a comprehensive database.

The database contains data from Maine and Arizona for 1998, 2000 and 2002. It includes information on all candidates who ran for office, both publicly and privately funded. It also includes the candidates' gender, race and occupation (where available). Election-specific information includes the candidates' status as incumbent or challenger, whether the seat was open or open due to term limits, and financial contributions and expenditures. Voter registration totals by district, voter turnout, and candidate vote totals are also included.

We regret that the data is not more conclusive when it comes to the impact of Clean Elections on women candidates. It seems that every time we thought we found a trend, it was offset by other information. For example, out of all women running for office in Maine, a growing percentage has won each year since 1998. However, the trend was exactly the opposite in Arizona.

We are interested in hearing your reactions to, or questions about, any of the points in the report. In addition, if there is specific information that you would like to get from the database, please email me at epalmer@neaction.org or call me at (860) 231-2410 to see how we can help. For example, one request we received was for a list of all candidates in Maine who ran both ways—using Clean Elections funding in one election and private funding in another.

We put a lot of time and effort into gathering the data, creating the database, entering it, and checking for errors. Thus, we want it to be a useful and up-to-date tool that helps us to better understand the success of Clean Elections in Maine and Arizona and its application elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Eric Palmer
Senior Campaign Strategist & Researcher



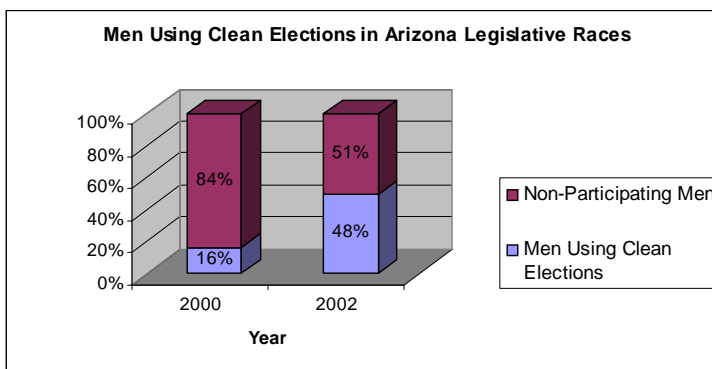
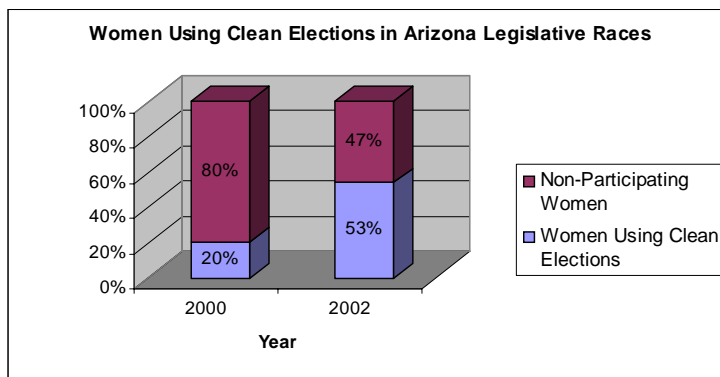
The Impact of Clean Elections on Women Candidates in Maine & Arizona: 1998–2002

I. A higher percentage of women candidates use Clean Elections.

Surveys of Clean Elections candidates in Arizona (in 2000) and Maine (in 2002) found that the availability of public financing was a very important factor in convincing women to run.

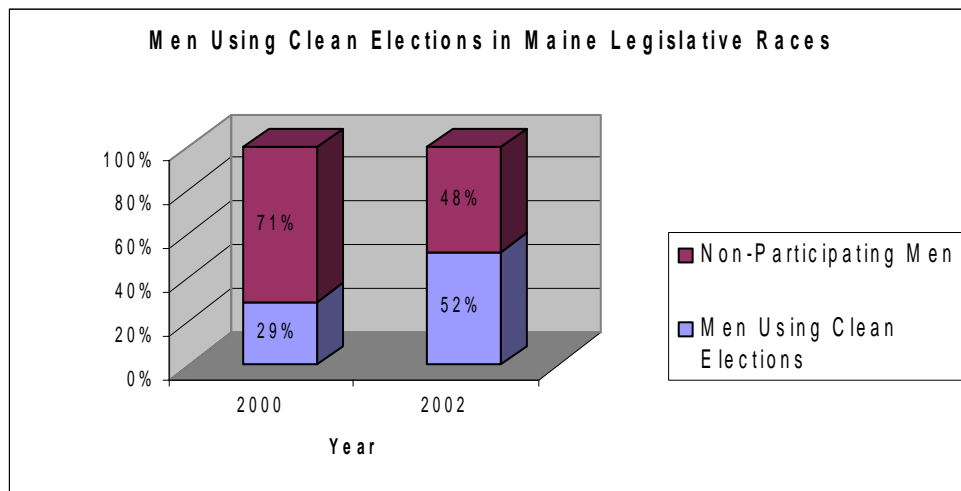
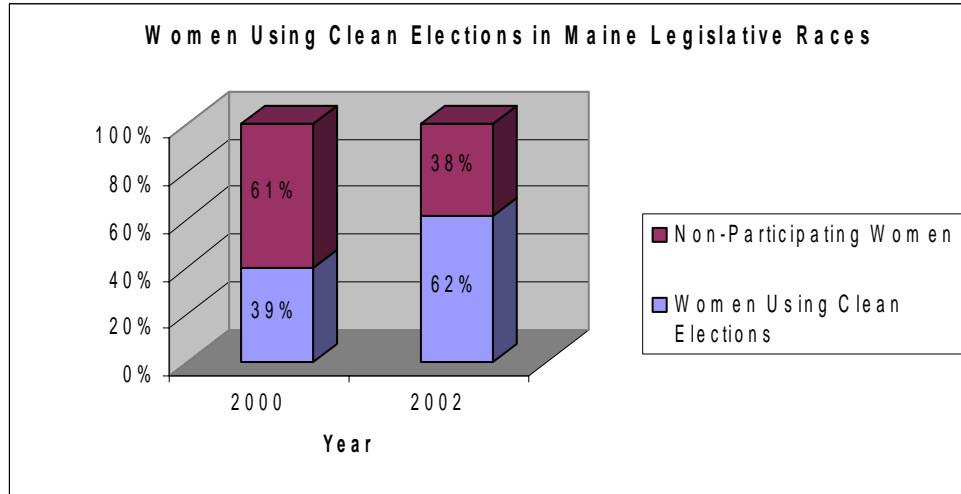
Arizona

- In Arizona in 2000, 20 percent of female legislative candidates and 16 percent of male legislative candidates used Clean Elections.
- In Arizona in 2002, 53 percent of female legislative candidates and 48 percent of male legislative candidates used Clean Elections.



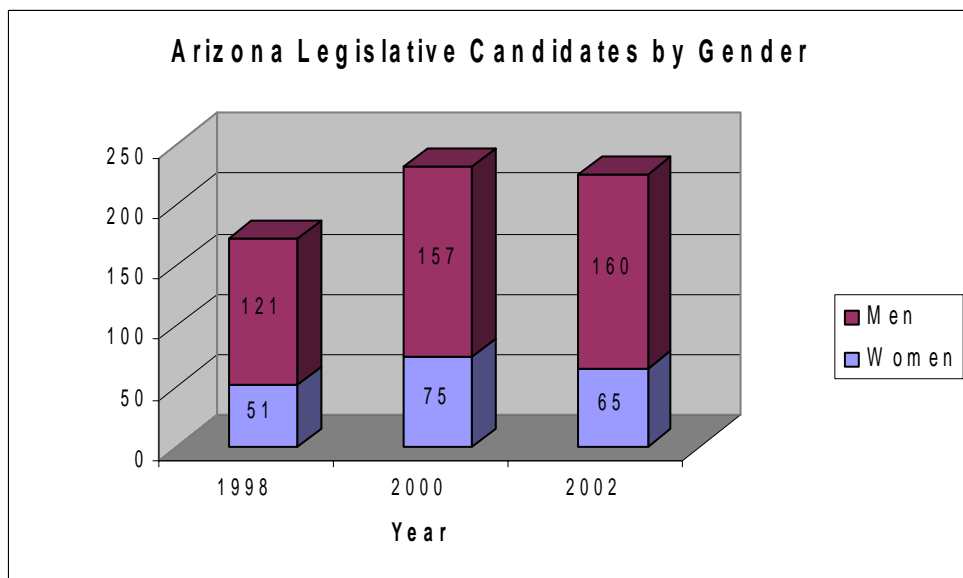
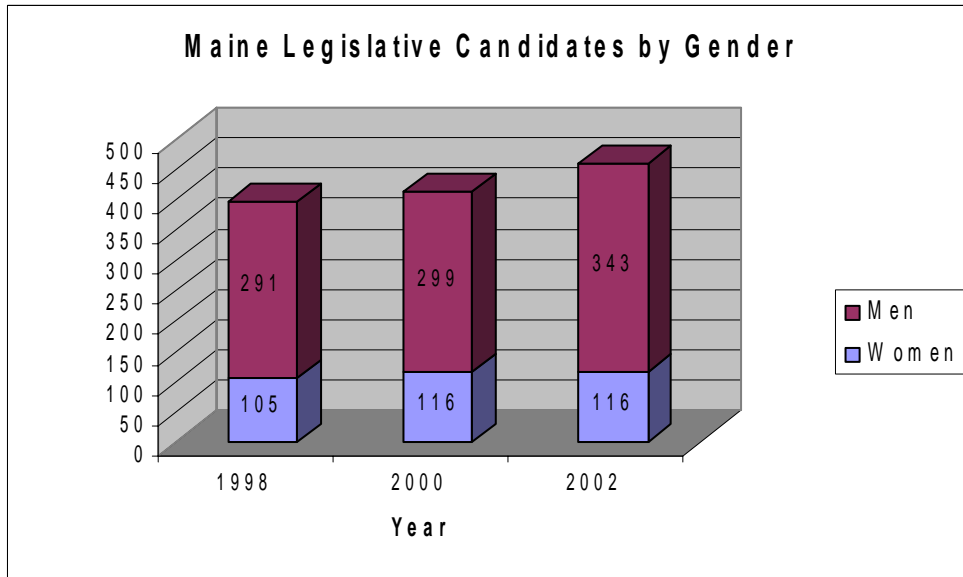
Maine

- In 2000, 39 percent of female legislative candidates and 29 percent of male legislative candidates used Clean Elections.
- In 2002, 62 percent of female legislative candidates and 52 percent of male legislative candidates used Clean Elections.



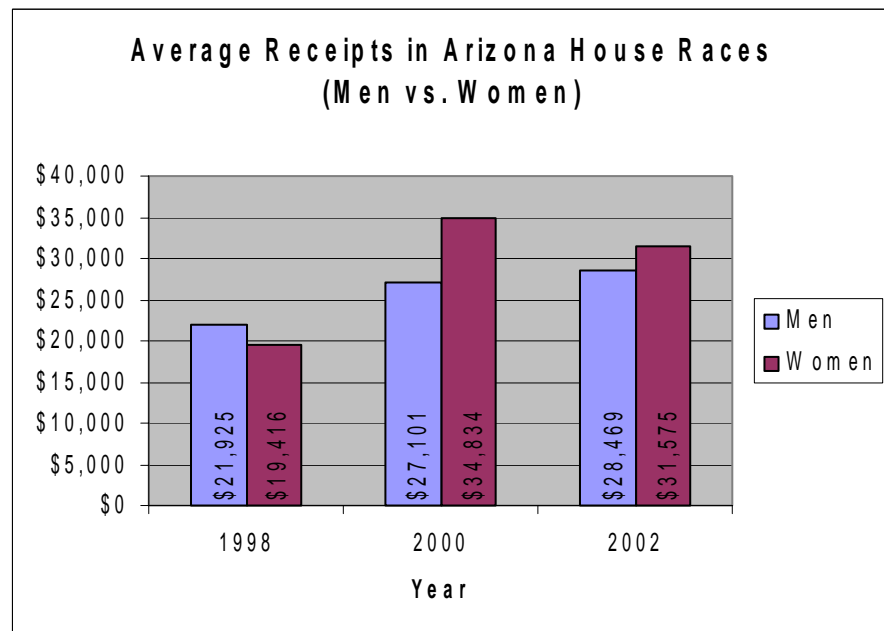
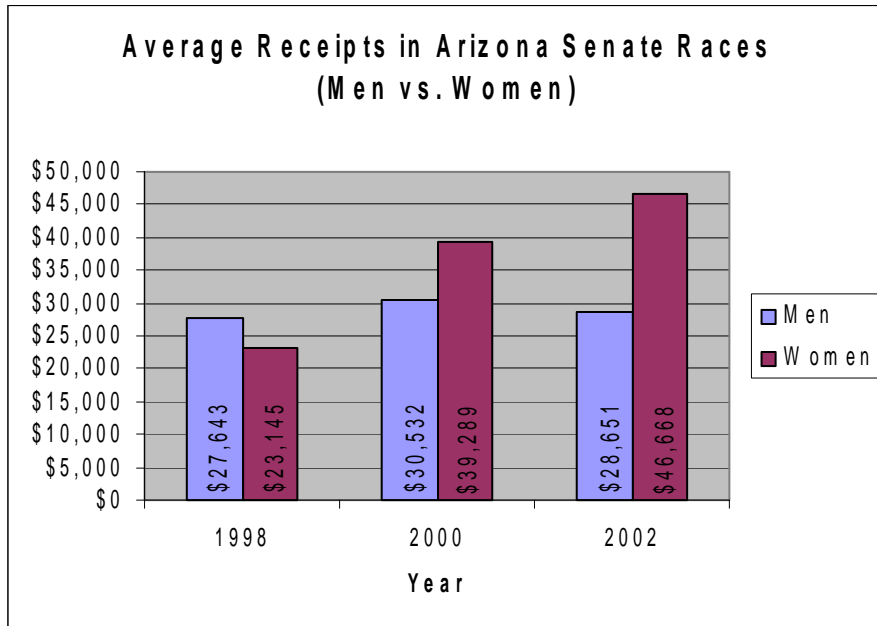
II. When Clean Elections took effect in Arizona and Maine, there was an initial significant increase in the number of women running for legislative office.

- In Maine, the number of women running for legislative office was noticeably higher from 1998 to 2000, and remained the same from 2000 to 2002.
- In Arizona, the number of women running for legislative office was noticeably higher from 1998 to 2000. While the number decreased from 2000 to 2002, it remained higher than in 1998.

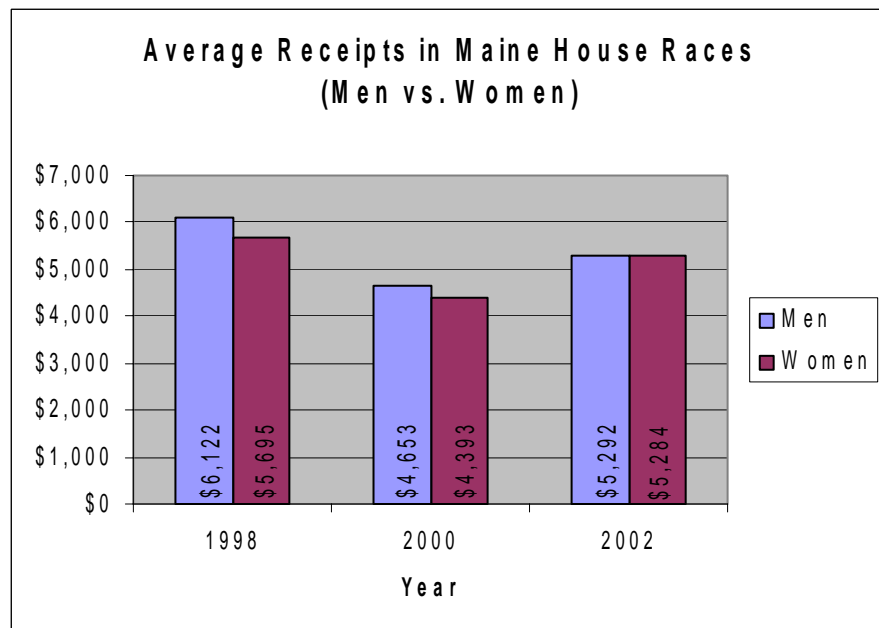
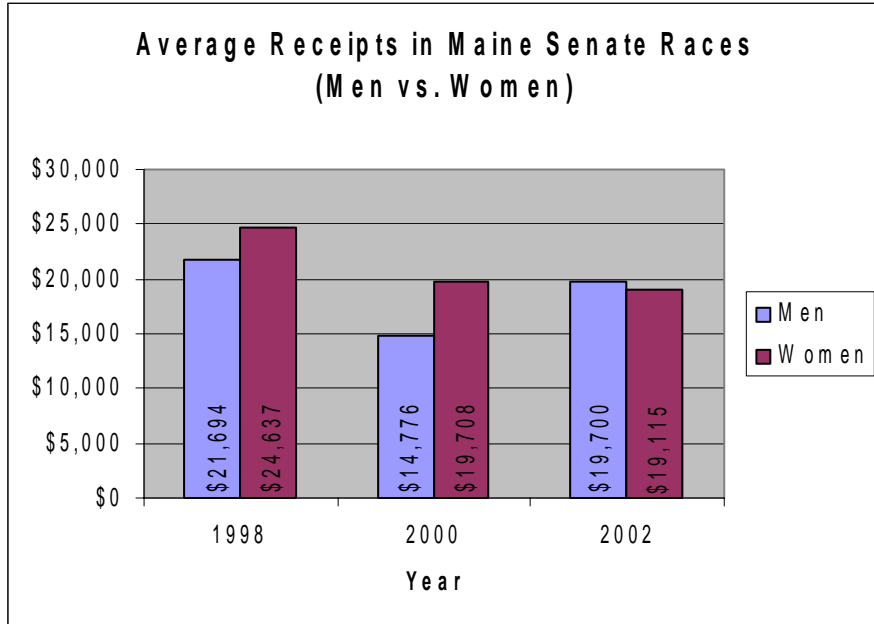


III. Women candidates appear to be more financially competitive with men since Clean Elections took effect in 2000.

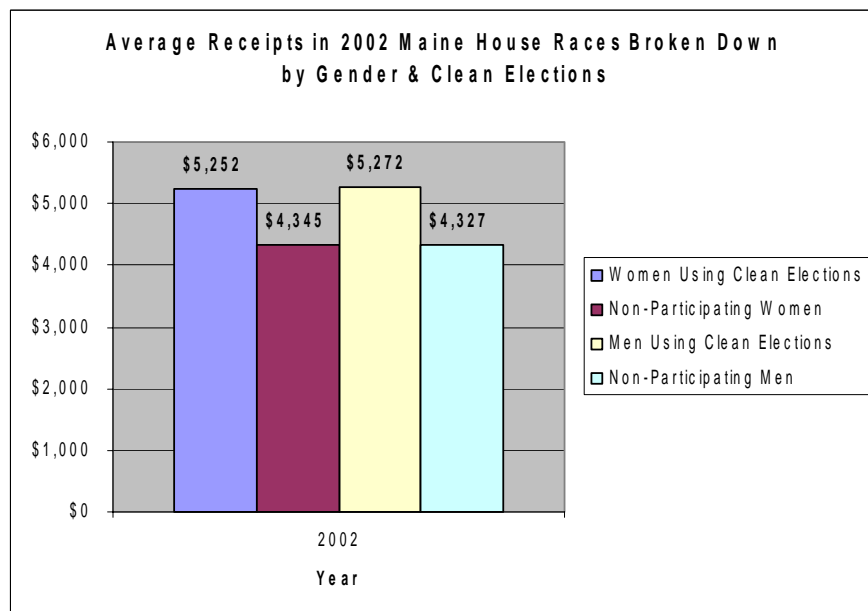
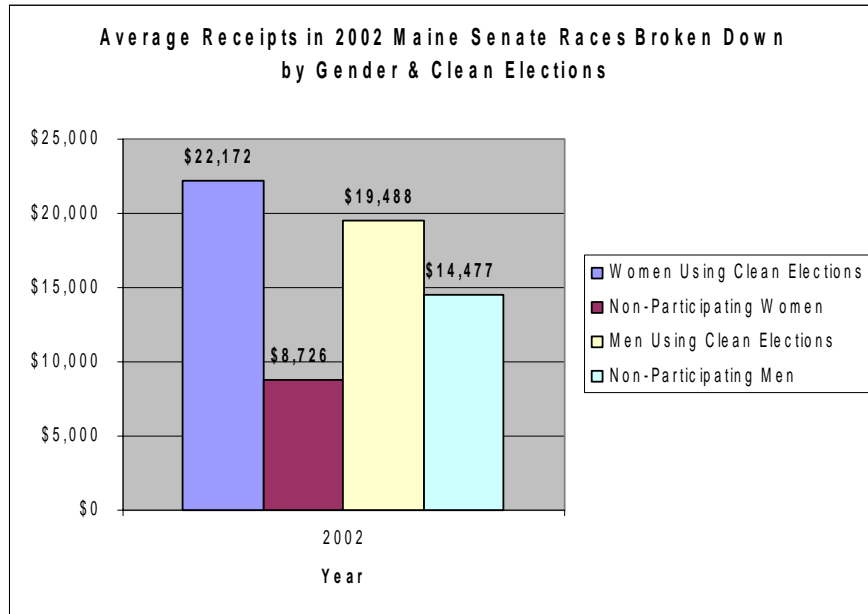
- This pattern is clear in Arizona, where female candidates for the House and Senate have raised, on average, more than male candidates in each of the past two election cycles.



- The pattern is less clear in Maine, where women’s fund raising was virtually equal to men’s fund raising in 2002. This represents an improvement among Maine women running for the House, but is actually a retreat in Senate races, where women raised more than men in the prior two election cycles.



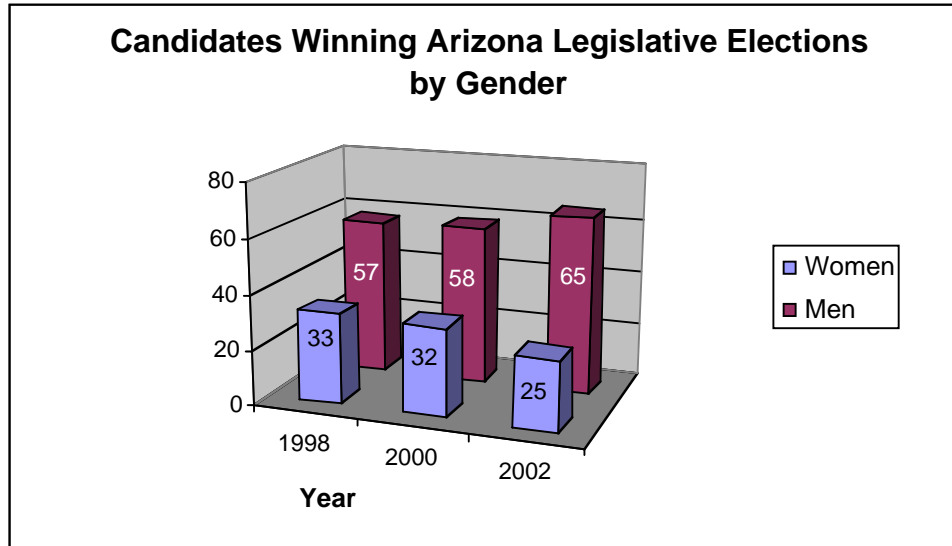
- The use of Clean Elections funding among women appeared to give women a significant financial edge in 2002.
- Among Maine Senate candidates, women running with public funds raised \$2.54 for every \$1.00 raised by privately financed women. Among Maine House candidates, Clean Elections women raised \$1.21 for every \$1.00 raised by privately financed women.



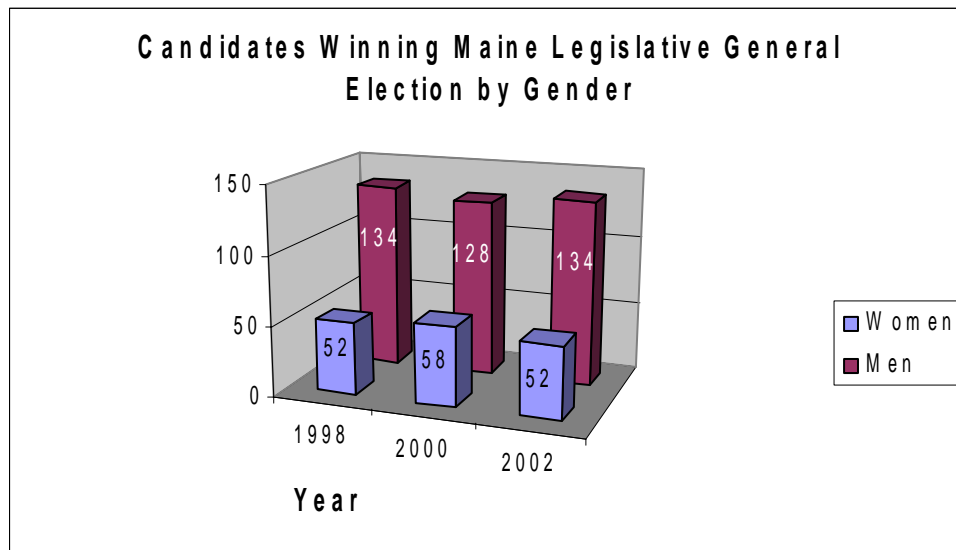
- The pattern was similar in Arizona, although the differences were less dramatic.

IV. Despite some gains in other areas, more women are not winning.

- In Arizona, there was a gradual but consistent decrease in the number of women elected to the state legislature—from 33 in 1998 to 32 in 2000 to 25 in 2002.



- In Maine, there was a slight increase in the number of women elected to the state legislature, followed by a slight decrease—from 52 in 1998 to 58 in 2000 back to 52 in 2002.



- While women have not won more offices, they have achieved a higher percentage of the vote totals, on average, each year since 1998. This is based on a review of the margins of victory among all women candidates in 1998, 2000 and 2002.

V. A Note on Women and Clean Elections in Statewide Offices

- At the statewide level in Maine, the Clean Elections law only applies to the office of governor, as it is the only elected statewide office. In 2002, no women ran for governor.
- At the statewide level in Arizona, the Clean Elections law applies to all statewide elected offices. There was no significant increase in Arizona in the number of women running for or elected to statewide office. However, both women elected to statewide office in 2002 ran using Clean Elections.
- In Arizona in 1998 there were 24 candidates for statewide office. Of those, seven were women and 17 were men. Five women were elected to the offices of Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Superintendent of Public Instruction. Two men were elected.
- In Arizona in 2000 there were eight candidates for statewide office. Of those, three were women (one using Clean Elections) and five were men (two using Clean Elections). No women were elected. Two men were elected (both were Clean candidates).
- In Arizona in 2002 there were 41 candidates for statewide office. Of those, eight were women (six using Clean Elections) and 33 were men (20 using Clean Elections). Two women were elected (both were Clean candidates) to the offices of Governor and Secretary of State. Seven men were elected (five were Clean candidates).