



Summary of the “Michiganders for Money Out of Politics” Ballot Initiative

In July of 2025, the ballot question committee “Michiganders for Money Out of Politics” (MMOP) filed a petition to amend the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA). On May 27, 2026, MMOP organizers submitted more than 562,000 signatures to the Michigan Bureau of Elections. To qualify for the November 2026 ballot, the Board of State Canvassers (BSC) must vote to certify that proponents gathered at least 356,958 valid signatures.

Protect MI Free Speech, the 501(c)4 ballot question committee opposing MMOP, is preparing and fundraising for the signature challenge process before the BSC in July. This will include examining MMOP’s signatures for issues such as duplicates or forged signatures, circulator compliance issues and more.

Why MMOP is problematic –

- **MMOP directly targets the business community by expanding government control over political speech and association, stripping businesses of core First Amendment rights.**
 - MMOP targets and restricts the free speech rights of certain government contractors and electric and gas utilities by prohibiting political contributions not only from those entities, but also from their principals, agents, and affiliated businesses – including attorneys, accountants, stockbrokers, lobbyists, and insurance agents. The measure reaches far beyond corporations themselves, potentially sidelining local employers, employee political action committees (PACs) and the individuals who work with and for them from meaningful participation in the political process. By excluding these voices, it will concentrate political influence among groups not affected by these provisions, including labor unions and progressive organizations.
- **MMOP blurs the line between campaign activity and issue advocacy, potentially chilling grassroots civic engagement by businesses, nonprofits, local governments, school groups, and citizens.**
 - MMOP adds new reporting and donor disclosure requirements on issue advocacy activities – including all grassroots communications (e.g., contact your state legislator to oppose HB 1). It also requires real-time reporting of political expenditures, including donor disclosure.
- **MMOP is a walking example of hypocrisy.** Although the group says its goal is to reduce the influence of “dark money” in politics, its campaign finance disclosures show contributions from out-of-state donors – including national progressive organizations and prominent political activists.
- **MMOP’s changes would be locked into the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA),** requiring a legislative supermajority vote to amend its provisions in the future.