



Michiganders for Money Out of Politics Ballot Initiative: Silence Michiganders & Let Out-of-State Billionaires Control Our Public Policy Debates

“Michiganders for Money Out of Politics” (MMOP):

- Is a prime example of hypocrisy because MMOP says it aims to eliminate “dark money” but it has accepted millions of dollars of out-of-state dark money groups.
- Directly targets the business community, limiting core First Amendment rights, while ignoring many other groups.
- Puts local employers, their employees and even immediate family members at risk being silenced.
- Allows out-of-state billionaires to control Michigan’s public policy debates.
- Blurs the line between campaign activity and issue advocacy, potentially chilling grassroots civic engagement by businesses, nonprofits, local governments, school groups, and citizens.
- Would require a legislative supermajority vote to amend the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) in the future.

**OUT-OF-STATE
BILLIONAIRES
WIN
CITIZENS
SILENCED**

Paid for with regulated funds by Protect MI Free Speech, 600 S. Walnut, Lansing, MI 48933

1. MMOP strips government contractors and utilities of their free speech rights by prohibiting them from making political contributions.

For state government contractors exceeding \$250,000 in a calendar year:

- MMOP would bar these entities, their principals and immediate family members, agents (including attorneys, accountants, stockbrokers, lobbyists, etc.), and affiliated entities from contributing (directly or indirectly) to any candidate for state office or to any committee that supports such candidates, except for independent expenditure committees (Super PACs) or ballot question committees.

For electric and gas utilities, its principals, agents and affiliated entities:

- MMOP would prohibit these entities, as well as their principals and immediate family members, agents (including multi-client lobbyists, attorneys, accountants, and similar representatives), and affiliated entities (including their employee PACs and c4s), from directly or indirectly making contributions or donations to:
 - The Governor, Attorney General, State Senator/Representative;
 - A state or local party committee;
 - A committee that makes a contribution to the above candidates;
 - A member of the Michigan Public Service Commission;
 - Penalties: Civil fines up to 10 times the amount of the prohibited contribution or donation.

2. MMOP blurs the line between campaign activity and ordinary issue advocacy, effectively sweeping routine communications by organizations across the state into campaign finance regulation.

- Under current law, the MCFA applies only to expenditures containing express advocacy, but MMOP would dramatically expand the MCFA's reach by replacing that standard with a subjective test of whether a communication "promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes" a candidate.

4. Regulates candidate ads within 100 days of the general election (30 days within the primary), regardless of whether the ads contain "express advocacy."



- Under the proposal, any ad referencing "a clearly identifiable candidate, regardless of whether the communication contains express advocacy" would be subject to identification/disclaimer requirements.
- Any organization making a public communication naming a candidate and spending \$5,000 or more in total must file a report disclosing the name of each person who contributed \$100 or more.
- Real-time reporting of political expenditures and donor info.

5. MMOP prohibits a person or entity from taking in dollars with an agreement that it will be transferred to a committee governed by the MCFA.