

Report on Congressional Proposals to Amend the U.S. Constitution

Regulation of Financing of Political Campaigns

**Maine Commission on Governmental
Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
July 24, 2025**

Introduction

On November 7, 2023, Maine voters approved Question 2, which proposed a new section of Maine Election Law prohibiting foreign governments and entities that they control or influence from spending money to influence candidate or ballot question elections in Maine.¹

Question 2 contained a second section which called on members of Maine's congressional delegation "to actively support and promote" an "anticorruption amendment" to the U.S. Constitution that would allow for greater regulation of how political campaigns are financed. The question directed the Commission to issue an annual report on proposals in the U.S. Congress to amend the Constitution, including whether they have been sponsored by Maine's federal representatives:

For 7 consecutive years beginning on July 31, 2023, the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices shall issue a report, following public comment, identifying anticorruption amendment proposals introduced in Congress, and the members of Maine's Congressional Delegation sponsoring such proposals.

The Commission's first report was published on July 24, 2024. This memo represents an update for the period of August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025.

2025 Resolutions

The Commission has identified two congressional resolutions proposing relevant constitutional amendments that have been introduced this year:

[Senate Joint Resolution 43](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, March 27, 2025, and [House Joint Resolution 54](#), sponsored by Rep. Pramila Jayapal, February 12, 2025. This list of the resolutions has been formatted to include hyperlinks. Clicking on the links will provide more details about the resolutions on www.congress.gov. The printed resolutions are included in the appendix to this report.

¹ The language on the ballot was "Do you want to ban foreign governments and entities that they own, control, or influence from making campaign contributions or financing communications for or against candidates or ballot questions?"

Support by Members of Maine’s Congressional Delegation

The following table indicates which U.S. Representatives and Senators from Maine have co-sponsored the amendments.

	Maine Co-Sponsors
Senate Joint Resolution 43 (Sponsor: Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, 3/27/2025)	Sen. Angus S. King, Jr.
House Joint Resolution 54 (Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal, 2/12/2025)	

Comments from the Public

In response to a May 29, 2025 invitation to comment, the Commission received 61 comments on the issue of amending the U.S. Constitution to allow for greater campaign finance regulation. Seven of the comments were from individuals representing organizations. The comments are included in the appendix directly after the two congressional resolutions.

Conclusion

The Commission appreciates the time taken by members of the public to submit comments for this report. In keeping with past practice and its role as Maine’s administrator of state campaign finance law, the Commission does not take any position on proposed amendments to federal law. It hopes that the information in the annual reports will provide helpful information on the topic and looks forward to making annual updates in the future.

Appendix

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 43

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27, 2025

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KIM, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. REED, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein),* That the fol-
4 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
5 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
6 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when

1 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
2 States:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. To advance democratic self-government
5 and political equality, and to protect the integrity of gov-
6 ernment and the electoral process, Congress and the
7 States may regulate and set reasonable limits on the rais-
8 ing and spending of money by candidates and others to
9 influence elections.

10 “SECTION 2. Congress and the States shall have
11 power to implement and enforce this article by appropriate
12 legislation, and may distinguish between natural persons
13 and corporations or other artificial entities created by law,
14 including by prohibiting such entities from spending
15 money to influence elections.

16 “SECTION 3. Nothing in this article shall be con-
17 strued to grant Congress or the States the power to
18 abridge the freedom of the press.”.

○

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 54

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights protected and extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. TONKO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BROWN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CHU, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. FROST, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights protected and extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein),* That the fol-
4 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
5 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all

1 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
2 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
3 States:

4 “ARTICLE —

5 “SECTION 1. The rights and privileges protected and
6 extended by the Constitution of the United States are the
7 rights and privileges of natural persons only. An artificial
8 entity, such as a corporation, limited liability company, or
9 other entity, established by the laws of any State, the
10 United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights
11 under the Constitution and are subject to regulation by
12 the People, through Federal, State, or local law. The privi-
13 leges of an artificial entity shall be determined by the Peo-
14 ple, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not
15 be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

16 “SECTION 2. Federal, State, and local government
17 shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expendi-
18 tures, including a candidate’s own contributions and ex-
19 penditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their
20 economic status, have access to the political process, and
21 that no person gains, as a result of that person’s money,
22 substantially more access or ability to influence in any way
23 the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot
24 measure. Federal, State, and local governments shall re-
25 quire that any permissible contributions and expenditures

1 be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the
2 spending of money to influence elections to be speech
3 under the First Amendment.

4 “SECTION 3. This amendment shall not be construed
5 to abridge the right secured by the Constitution of the
6 United States of the freedom of the press.”.

○

From: [Shlomit Auciello](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#); [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Friday, June 13, 2025 7:34:56 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 13, 2025

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Shlomit Auciello. I live in Thomaston, Maine.

In the year 2000, I ran for the Maine Legislature as one of the first Clean Election Candidates and I have continued to volunteer for and support Maine's landmark campaign funding law. I am proud to have received mention in the March 21, 2021 Congressional Record, when Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone praised our state for providing a way to limit the amount of money being spent to buy American votes.

This is my testimony in support of a constitutional amendment to restore the ability of states and Congress to set limits for campaign spending and address foreign interference in our elections. While knocking on doors in my legislative district, I talked to thousands of Mainers who were concerned about the role of money in elections.

Between 2020 and 2023, entities owned or controlled by foreign governments spent more than \$100 million to influence Maine's ballot initiatives. These weren't donations from people who live and vote here. These were dollars from foreign corporations looking to shape our laws to serve their bottom line — and we had no legal mechanism to stop them.

Maine should be able to ban foreign money in its own democratic processes. To have this power, we need a constitutional amendment. I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to allow States and Congress to set limits on campaign spending.

With gratitude for your service to democracy,

Shlomit Auciello
192 Main Street, Apt. 302
Thomaston, Knox County, Maine 04861
timolhs@gmail.com
207-542-0651

From: [Dick Bachelder started are you tired](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on congressional amendments
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 4:56:09 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

I wholeheartedly support the anti-corruption amendment to the US Constitution to allow Congress Ian states like Maine to set reasonable limits on campaign spending. It is clear to me that money equals Power, and I feel this fact is entirely contradictory to the concept of one person one vote. I respectfully encourage our members in Congress from Maine to lead this very important amendment initiative.

Sincerely,

Richard H bachelder
71 Orchard Farm Rd.
York Maine 03909

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director

Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

135 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0135

Jonathan.wayne@maine.gov

Via e-mail delivery only

06/20/2025

Dear honorable members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Steph Barrett and I live in Belgrade, Maine. During my lifetime, I've lived in several small Maine towns up and down the Kennebec watershed. I'm writing as a voter and concerned citizen who has seen ever-increasing impacts of outside money coming in to Maine politics. I have been involved in public campaigns to raise the voice of Maine people, including on topics such as NECEC, equal rights for all citizens, and common-sense governmental reforms.

What I've seen, time and again, is that it's hard to be heard, very hard to be heard, as a citizen. Over time, as outside money has increasingly come in, that influence has become nearly insurmountable. While it was already difficult to be heard over moneyed interests, now that money is coming from all over the world. With the changing landscapes of technology, that money can buy sophisticated disinformation, so the average citizen isn't even able to discern fact from fiction.

One thing I know from all the small towns I've lived in is that Mainers are smart and good people, from Unity to Caratunk, West Forks, and Belgrade, Mainers are good people who care about their communities, the state, and their environment and Maine people are no longer driving the decisions. They are up against very deep pockets that can buy the airwaves and fill them with vitriol and lies, pockets that can endlessly tie up issues in court and buy access and influence to stack the deck. Conversely here I am, stuffing a fiver into an envelope, trying to exercise my Constitutional right to self-governance. It is NOT a fair contest. Mainers aren't rich.

Twice now, Mainers have affirmed support for a constitutional amendment to limit campaign contributions and undisclosed political spending. Each time, the money has fought back to maintain the unfair advantage. As poll after poll shows, we know that the influence of money is terrible for our democracy, and as citizens we are seeking to amend our constitution to return the power back to the voters, as the founders intended. Of the people, by the people, and FOR the people. A constitutional amendment is the only vehicle to get us there.

I implore our members of Congress to work toward an anti-corruption amendment to the United States Constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK Barrett', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Stephanie Barrett

Belgrade, Maine

From: [Richard Bennett](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025 4:08:08 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Senator Rick Bennett

75 Bennett Lane
Oxford, Maine 04270

June 19, 2025

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Rick Bennett, I live in Oxford, and I have the honor of representing the people of the foothills and lakes region of western Maine in the State Senate. Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment for your report on proposals to amend the United States Constitution regarding regulation of campaign finance activity.

An anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution is the only way to take our government back from the moneyed interests and political class.

It is time to restore our democracy to the people. It is time to take our republic back from the carnival of corruption it has become – a carnival where immense cash flows from special interest groups, foreign actors, and transnational corporations fund armies of lobbyists, political consultants, and media companies.

Maine has twice affirmed its support for a constitutional amendment that would allow Americans to limit campaign contributions and undisclosed political spending – first in 2013 with a bipartisan resolution in the State Legislature and again in 2023 at the ballot box with a record-breaking 86% support.

The ballot measure passed in 2023 calls upon “each member of Maine’s Congressional Delegation to actively support and promote an effective anti-corruption amendment to the United States Constitution[.]” I am hopeful that every member of our Congressional Delegation will heed their constituents and support such an amendment.

The corruptive influence of money is a deep concern across the political spectrum. It's something that all of us – Republicans, Democrats, and independents – want to solve. According to Pew Research Center, “the role of money in politics” is the top problem for American voters. This is the reform that Americans care most about, and fortunately it is one we can solve by joining together in support of a constitutional amendment.

For too long, the voices of Maine voters have been silenced by dark money special interest groups. With a Constitutional Amendment, we have an opportunity to stop corruption, protect election integrity, and to restore confidence in our democracy. We ask that our Congressional Delegation stand with Maine voters and support an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Sincerely yours,

Senator Rick Bennett

Sen. Richard A. Bennett
75 Bennett Lane
Oxford, Maine 04270
207 592-3200
rick@rickbennett.org

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine, Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices 135
State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

RE: Public Comment on Proposals to Amend the United States Constitution regarding
Regulation of Campaign Finance Activity

June 11, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

Thank you for the work you have done, are doing, and will continue to do. My name is Seth Berry, I live in Bowdoinham, Maine, and I submit these comments in support of an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

I am a former, seven-term State Representative and past Democratic Majority Leader and Assistant Majority Leader of the Maine House of Representatives. I've lived in Maine almost my entire life and over the past few years, I've watched as political spending has skyrocketed. I believe it must be held in check and the only way to do that is an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

For too long, the voices of Maine voters have been silenced by dark money special interest groups. With a Constitutional Amendment, we have an opportunity to stop corruption, protect election integrity, and to restore confidence in our democracy.

Maine has twice affirmed its support for a constitutional amendment that would allow Americans to limit campaign contributions and undisclosed political spending: first in 2013 with a bipartisan resolution in the State Legislature, for which I voted alongside a majority of my colleagues, and again in 2023 at the ballot box – this time with the support of a record-breaking 86% of Maine voters. As you know, the 2023 ballot measure calls upon “each member of Maine’s Congressional Delegation to actively support and promote an effective anti-corruption amendment to the United States Constitution[.]”

We ask that our Congressional Delegation stand with Maine voters and support an anti corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution letting the States and Congress set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Berry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon. Seth Berry
bhamberry@gmail.com
207-522-1609

From: [Julie Bohan](#)
To: [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Ethics and Election Practices--Our Voices Matter
Date: Monday, June 16, 2025 7:27:03 PM

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Jonathan Wayne,
Executive Director State of Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Julia Bohan and I live in Castine Maine. I'm writing as a lifelong voter, a community volunteer, and a deeply concerned citizen to express my support for a constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system. I believe the American democratic system is at a crossroads — and that unchecked political spending is one of the greatest threats we face. Voters across the political spectrum are becoming increasingly disillusioned with our political system.

The people of Maine are tired of being outspent, outshouted, and overshadowed by billionaires and dark money groups with no ties to our state. The facts speak for themselves: in the 2020 U.S. Senate race here in Maine, more than \$200 million was spent, 93% of it from outside the state. In the 2022 midterms, dark money groups nationally spent \$615 million. By 2024, that figure exploded to \$1.9 billion. These groups aren't just pushing ads — they're pushing us out of our own democracy. People across the political spectrum are sounding the alarm. According to American Promise's polling, 82.4% of voters believe that the influence of money is a threat to our democracy, and 77.1% support a constitutional amendment to fix it. That's why I joined the 86% of Maine voters who supported Question 2 in 2023. We sent a clear message: it's time to restore the power of the people. We need a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of Congress and the States to enact commonsense, reasonable limits on political spending and protects our elections from dark money and foreign interference.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Sincerely,

Julia Bohan



GoodParty.org

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director

State of Maine

Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

135 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0135

Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

5/28/2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,

My name is Rob Booth, and I live in Windham, Maine. I'm a lifelong Mainer and currently serve as the Head of Field and Mobilization at GoodParty.org—a national organization dedicated to making people matter more than money in our democracy by empowering independents to run, win, and serve their communities.

Throughout my life, I've worked to make the American Dream a reality for all, from fighting for healthcare reform and marriage equality to advancing Maine's Clean Elections laws. I also spent seven years as the National Field Director at RepresentUs, where I led grassroots campaigns to curb corruption and restore trust in government nationwide, including our efforts to support Maine's passage of Ranked Choice Voting.

I'm writing today to express my strong support for a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of Congress and the States to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Mainers have twice affirmed their support for this vital reform—first through a bipartisan resolution in 2013, and again in 2023 at the ballot box with a record-breaking 86% of voters backing Question 2. That's not just a political message—it's a moral one. Mainers are tired of dark money drowning out our voices, and of foreign-influenced entities pouring millions into our ballot initiatives. Between 2020 and 2023, over \$100 million from such entities influenced our elections. That's not democracy—it's auctioneering.

The fact that Maine's voter-approved ban on foreign government spending is now tied up in court reveals the broken state of our political system. Without a constitutional amendment, states like ours remain powerless to defend the integrity of our elections from special interests and foreign interference.

This issue is a chance to put people over party, and affirm that people should matter more than money in our democracy. It's about sovereignty, fairness, and the future of self-government. I respectfully urge this commission to listen to the will of the people and lead the charge for an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Sincerely,
Rob Booth
rob@goodparty.org
Windham, ME
Head of Field & Mobilization, GoodParty.org



Jonathan Wayne
Executive Director
Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 20, 2025

Dear Director Wayne,

Pursuant to Section 2(3) of [21-A MRSA § 1064](#) (“Ballot Question 2”), the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices (the “Commission”) is charged with issuing an annual report “identifying anti-corruption amendment proposals introduced in Congress, and the members of Maine’s Congressional Delegation sponsoring such proposals.”

To support the Commission in carrying out its charge, American Promise respectfully submits these comments with two primary goals: (1) to update the Commission on the progress of nationwide efforts to urge Congress to propose an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution, similar to Maine’s Section 2 of Ballot Question 2, and (2) to identify whether members of Maine’s Congressional Delegation are presently sponsoring such proposals.¹

[American Promise](#) is a nonprofit organization that mobilizes broad, cross-partisan support for an amendment to the United States Constitution that would empower the States and Congress to decide whether and how to set guardrails on money in our political system. We are proud to have nearly 8,500 supporters in the State of Maine, including several volunteer leaders who dedicate countless hours to educating their

¹ American Promise submitted comments to the Commission last year. A complete copy of our 2024 comments is available on our website: <https://americanpromise.net/american-promise-submission-to-maine-ethics-commission/>.

fellow citizens about a workable and enduring constitutional solution to the vexing problem of money in politics.

I. Background: Ballot Question 2's Constitutional Amendment Provisions

On November 7, 2023, over [eighty-six percent](#) (86%) of the voters in Maine voted in favor of Ballot Question 2.

Ballot Question 2 has two main sections: Section 1 contains provisions to implement a prohibition of foreign spending in Maine's elections, and Section 2 contains provisions that reaffirm Maine's support for an amendment to the United States Constitution that would allow the States and Congress to enact limits on the role of money in elections. In this document, we focus exclusively on Section 2 of Ballot Question 2.

Section 2 reaffirms support of [Senate Paper 548](#) ("the 2013 Maine Resolution"), a joint resolution from 2013 in which Maine's legislature declared "our support for an amendment to the United States Constitution regarding campaign finance that would reaffirm the power of citizens through their government to regulate the raising and spending of money in elections." The 2013 Maine Resolution also called upon "each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation to actively support and promote in Congress an amendment to the United States Constitution on campaign finance." Section 2 of Ballot Question 2 incorporates the substantive principles of the 2013 Maine Resolution by reference.

In the remainder of this document, we will (1) update the Commission on recent legislation in other states urging Congress to propose an amendment, and (2) identify the anticorruption amendment proposals that have been introduced so far in the 119th Congress, noting support by members of Maine's Congressional Delegation for such proposals.

II. Nationwide Progress of an Anti-Corruption Amendment

Since Question 2 appeared on the ballot in Maine in November of 2023, several other states have introduced legislation similar to Section 2. Notably, in March of this year, [Utah officially became the 23rd state](#) to call on Congress to propose an amendment to

the U.S. Constitution to restore the States' power to determine whether and how to regulate election spending within their borders.

Below is a list of legislation that has recently been introduced in a number of States across the country:

- **Utah:** [Senate Joint Resolution 7](#)
 - Passed by both legislative chambers as of March 17, 2025.
 - Passed the Utah State Senate (69% in favor) and Utah House of Representatives (84% in favor).
- **Wisconsin:** [Senate Joint Resolution 58](#) and [Assembly Joint Resolution 57](#)
 - Currently pending in the Wisconsin State Senate and Wisconsin State Assembly.
- **Wyoming:** [Senate Joint Resolution No. SJ 0008](#)
 - Passed in the Wyoming Senate in February 2025 (55% in favor).
 - Received in the Wyoming House of Representatives; adjournment sine die.
- **Oklahoma:** [H.R.C. 1006](#)
 - Passed unanimously in the Oklahoma House of Representatives in March 2025.
 - First reading in the Oklahoma Senate; adjournment sine die.
- **Texas:** [S.C.R. No. 28](#) and [H.C.R 79](#)
 - Introduced in the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives in 2025.
- **Arizona:** [S.C.R. 1012](#)
 - Introduced in the Arizona Senate; favorable vote by the Senate Federalism Committee in February 2025.

III. Maine Congressional Delegation’s Support for Anti-Corruption Amendment Proposals Pending in the 119th Congress

American Promise regularly monitors resolutions introduced in Congress calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution concerning the regulation of money in elections and campaigns. Thus far in the 119th Congress, there has been one such bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and one in the U.S. Senate.

The following table lists those bills and indicates whether members of Maine’s Congressional Delegation “actively support and promote”² such bills as sponsors or cosponsors:

119th Congress (2025-2026)	Maine’s Congressional Delegation			
Resolution Proposing an Anti-Corruption Amendment	Senator Collins	Senator King	Representative Pingree	Representative Golden
House Joint Resolution 54 (Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal, 2/12/2025)				
Senate Joint Resolution 43 (Sponsor: Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, 3/27/2025)		Cosponsor (3/27/25)		

IV. Conclusion

Thank you for considering these comments, and for all of the work you do on behalf of the people of Maine. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Best regards,

Brian Boyle
Chief Program Officer & General Counsel
American Promise

Chris Cayer
Director of Organizing
American Promise

² 21-A M.R.S. § 1064, Section 2(1)(A).

From: [Katey Branch](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 9:18:37 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Katherine Branch and I live in South Paris. I'm writing as a lifelong voter, a community volunteer, and a deeply concerned citizen to express my support for a constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system.

I believe the American democratic system is endangered and that unchecked political spending is one of the greatest threats we face. I love that we have the option of Clean Elections campaign financing in Maine. It encourages everyday people to engage in the political landscape, not just career politicians and millionaires. When huge amounts of money skew elections the voice of the people is often not heard.

Voters across the political spectrum are becoming increasingly disillusioned with our political system. The people of Maine are tired of being outspent, outshouted, and overshadowed by billionaires and dark money groups with no ties to our state. A huge number of voters, and I am one, believe that the influence of money is a threat to our democracy, and 77.1% support a constitutional amendment to fix it. That's why I joined the 86% of Maine voters who supported Question 2 in 2023. We sent a clear message: it's time to restore the power of the people.

We need a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of Congress and the States to enact commonsense, reasonable limits on political spending and protects our elections from dark money and

foreign interference.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you, Katherine Branch

--

Katey Branch

253 Halls Pond Road, S. Paris, ME

207-890-9622

<https://www.kateybranch.com>

www.hallspondhealingarts.com

www.facebook.com/HallsPondHealingArtsStudio

www.alandaycommunitygarden.org



June 20, 2025

RE: Comments on Congressional Amendments from Veterans for All Voters

Members of the Maine Ethics Commission,

My name is Eric Bronner. I am a Navy veteran and the Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Veterans for All Voters, a national nonpartisan nonprofit that mobilizes military veterans to advocate for fair, accountable, and inclusive elections.

I am writing on behalf of Veterans for All Voters, and our Maine Veteran leaders, Chris Comora and Erik Derecktor, to express our strong support for the For Our Freedom Amendment, which would restore the ability of Congress and the states to regulate the raising and spending of money in elections.

As veterans, we took an oath to defend a system of government that is accountable to the people. That system cannot function properly when unlimited campaign spending drowns out the voices of ordinary Americans. Veterans across the political spectrum know what it means to put country over party, and we believe our elected leaders, and our political system, should do the same.

The Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) Study Report makes clear that Maine voters continue to support strong campaign finance laws and public funding systems that keep elections clean and competitive. But it also makes clear that the rise of outside spending and dark money has weakened the impact of those reforms. Mainers have voted time and again for transparency and accountability. The For Our Freedom Amendment would give them the power to fully enact those values.

This amendment does not prescribe any one set of rules. It simply returns authority to the people and their representatives to set reasonable limits around campaign finance. It would allow states like Maine to protect their election systems from being overwhelmed by outside interests. That is not a partisan goal. It is a constitutional principle that voters across the country are calling to restore.

Veterans for All Voters supports the For Our Freedom Amendment because we believe in a truly representative Republic where every citizen's voice matters. We urge the Commission to include this amendment in its report and to recognize it as a critical step toward stronger elections, greater accountability, and a healthier democracy.

Respectfully,

/s/ *Eric H. Bronner*

Eric H. Bronner
Founder & COO
eric@veteransforallvoters.org

Chris Comora
Portland
Maine Leader
U.S. Navy Veteran

Erik Derecktor
Portland
Maine Leader
U.S. Navy Veteran

From: [Julia Brown](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:56:18 AM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 20th, 2025

My name is Julia Brown and I live in Brunswick, Maine. I stand with 86% of Mainers who voted to call on Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to restore power to states to decide whether and how to regulate money in our political system.

Maine has led the way on this issue and I want to continue to call on our Members of Congress to advance an amendment.

Sincerely,
Julia Brown
Brunswick, Maine

From: [Patty Bruce](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 10:37:14 AM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 20, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Patty Bruce and I live in Westbrook, Maine. I'm writing as a deeply concerned citizen who believes we have a growing national security crisis disguised as a campaign finance problem. I support an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution to give Congress and the States the power to set reasonable limits on campaign spending and, more importantly, to stop foreign interference in our democratic process.

According to data presented in a report by American Promise, foreign government-influenced entities spent more than \$100 million on Maine ballot initiatives between 2020 and 2023. In 2023 alone, they were responsible for 83% of all referendum spending in our state. These are foreign governments — or companies they own or control — shaping our laws and policies through massive advertising and lobbying campaigns.

This is not hypothetical. It's already happened repeatedly in recent referendum campaigns. When foreign-controlled entities spend tens of millions to influence what happens at the ballot box in Maine, that's not democracy. That's foreign manipulation of American self-government.

What's even more disturbing is that despite our recent success in passing Question 2 — where 86% of Mainers voted to ban foreign political spending in our elections — our will is being challenged in court. Why? Because a series of misguided U.S. Supreme Court decisions have left states powerless to defend themselves against this type of influence.

This is unacceptable!!

This isn't about partisan politics. This is about sovereignty. This is about national security. This is about standing up and saying: **"Only the people of Maine should decide what happens in Maine."**

The only viable path forward is a constitutional amendment. It's the only solution strong enough to override decades of legal precedent that currently protects foreign money under the guise of free speech.

We cannot wait for another election cycle. The threat is already here.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Patty Bruce

127 Brydon Way

Westbrook ME 04092

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 2, 2025

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Rebecca Buyers and have been a Maine resident since 1979. I live in Sweden, a small rural town in Oxford County, where democracy is practiced face to face at Town Meeting. People here are proud to vote and there is tolerance for opposing points of view. I feel strongly that only town residents (i.e. property taxpayers) should vote on issues that concern the town, and that only state residents (state tax payers) vote on issues that affect the state as a whole. But the voices of Maine voters are too often silenced by dark money special interest groups. That's why I volunteer with American Promise, and am submitting my testimony today. I want to help states protect their elections from dark money and foreign influence.

It is maddening when outside interests and money come into a local area outweighing the impact and opinions of voters, using paid advertising and misinformation to influence the outcomes of an election or referendum. This has happened in many states and at the federal level. The amount of money spent on Presidential campaigns has become obscene, and the sources of that money frighteningly opaque. Nationally, [\\$16 billion was spent](#) in the 2024 election cycle. An [OpenSecrets analysis](#) found dark money groups spent \$615 million in 2022. [That number](#) rose to \$1.9 Billion in 2024, a record high.

To prevent this from happening in future elections and referenda, I support passing an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution to allow Congress and states like Maine to set reasonable limits on campaign contributions.

In 2023, Maine passed an historic referendum to ban foreign government spending in state elections and call on Congress to pass the For Our Freedom amendment. The bill passed with 86% support, the largest margin of victory of any initiative in state history. A poll by Citizen Data shows that 82.4% of voters believe that the influence of money is a threat to our democracy and 77.1% of voters support a constitutional amendment.

Maine should be able to ban foreign money in its own democratic processes but we can't do that until we pass a constitutional amendment. With a Constitutional amendment, we have an opportunity to stop corruption, protect election integrity, and restore confidence in our democracy.

I respectfully call on our Congressional Delegation to stand with Maine voters and support an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Buyers
rwbuyers@gmail.com
207-256-4444

From: [Amy Callahan](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 11:58:30 PM

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Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Amy Callahan and I live in Portland, Maine. I'm writing as a deeply concerned citizen who believes we have a growing national security crisis disguised as a campaign finance problem. I support an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution to give Congress and the States the power to set reasonable limits on campaign spending and, more importantly, to stop foreign interference in our democratic process.

According to data presented in a report by American Promise, foreign government-influenced entities spent more than \$100 million on Maine ballot initiatives between 2020 and 2023. In 2023 alone, they were responsible for 83% of all referendum spending in our state. These are foreign governments — or companies they own or control — shaping our laws and policies through massive advertising and lobbying campaigns.

This is not hypothetical. It's already happened repeatedly in recent referendum campaigns. When foreign-controlled entities spend tens of millions to influence what happens at the ballot box in Maine, that's not democracy. That's foreign manipulation of American self-government.

What's even more disturbing is that despite our recent success in passing Question 2 — where 86% of Mainers voted to ban foreign political spending in our elections — our will is being challenged in court. Why? Because a series of misguided U.S. Supreme Court decisions have left states powerless to defend themselves against this type of influence.

This is unacceptable.

This isn't about partisan politics. This is about sovereignty. This is about national security. This is about standing up and saying: "Only the people of Maine should decide what happens in Maine." The only viable path forward is a constitutional amendment. It's the only solution strong enough to override decades of legal precedent that currently protects foreign money under the guise of free speech. We cannot wait for another election cycle. The threat is already here.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Sincerely,
Amy Callahan
138 Hartley Street

Portland, ME 04103
207329-3392

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 5th, 2024

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Christopher Cayer and I'm a resident of Eustis where I was born and raised. I am also the Director of Organizing with American Promise, an organization working to restore the power of state legislatures and Congress to reasonably regulate election spending. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment today in support of an anticorruption amendment to the United States constitution.

I'm submitting this comment today because I'm deeply concerned about the influence of money in our elections. Candidates and referendums are no longer elected based on their merit. The campaigns with the most money almost always win. In the 2022 midterm election in the United States, 93% of House candidates and 82% of Senate candidates who raised more money won their election. More and more, big political donors from outside the district, outside the state, and outside the country are buying our elections and silencing the voices of everyday people.

I've lived in Maine my entire life and over the past few years, I've watched as political spending in our state has skyrocketed. Every election cycle people are bombarded with nonstop negative political ads that offer little in terms of substance and instead aim to create fear and division. During the 2022 midterm election, a record breaking \$127 million was spent here in Maine – mostly in the form of negative attack ads from dark money special interest groups.

The amount of money being spent is only part of the problem. This political spending might be tolerable if the money was coming from Maine voters. However, the vast majority of this money is from out-of-state. A record shattering \$200 million was spent in Maine's 2020 senate race and 93% of that money came from outside of Maine.

The largest donations in the 2020 senate race came from "dark money" groups that are not required by law to disclose their donors. These groups can accept unlimited amounts of money from any source including foreign governments. In Maine, foreign governments can also spend unlimited amounts of money directly and openly on state referendum campaigns — and it's completely legal. Mainers tried to close this loophole in 2023 with Question 2 but the referendum is currently being held up in federal court, further highlighting the need for a constitutional amendment.

The people of Maine are ready for this reform. I had the pleasure of working beside 400 Maine citizens on the Question 2 referendum campaign. Volunteers from every corner of Maine and every political affiliation worked together to collect 80,000 signatures from Maine voters and then proceeded to win the election with 86% support!. In my ten years working in Maine politics, I've never seen an issue bring together such a wide range of supporters. This campaign has given me hope that our political differences can be bridged and that people can come together to make meaningful change in their communities.

Thank you for the work you are doing and for organizing this public comment period. I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christopher Cayer
Eustis, Maine
(207) 441-4413

TESTIMONY

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

My name is Deborah Cayer and I live in Chesterville ME. For way too long, the voices of Maine voters have been silenced by dark money special interest groups. We passed a resolution on the state level in 2023 to stop outside money from influencing our elections. This is not enough.

I have been tremendously troubled by what is happening in our country in the past years and currently with our elections being bought. Over \$200 million was spent in Maine's 2020 US senate race and 93% came from outside of Maine.

I am calling on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the US Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Sincerely,

Deborah J Cayer

debbiecayer@gmail.com

207-320-0379

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director State of Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 11, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Alison Edwards Curwen and I live in Yarmouth, Maine. I'm submitting this testimony to express my support for a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of states and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending and shut the door on foreign influence in our elections.

I added my signature to have Maine Question 2, Prohibit Foreign Spending in Elections Initiative, put onto the ballot in 2023, and I voted Yes when it was on the ballot, as did 86.33% of Mainers. Since then I have worked with the nonpartisan group American Promise and I see many communities in Maine wanting this reform and wanting their politicians to support this.

The current administration wants secure borders. Keeping our elections free of foreign influence is another way to keep our borders secure and keep our democratic process healthy.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Sincerely,

Alison E Curwen
aecurwen@icloud.com
207-350-2671

From: [Christopher D'Amico](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments.
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025 12:34:48 PM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director Commission on Governmental Ethics
and Election Practices 135 State House Station August, Maine
04333-0135 Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

Entities that are owned, controlled, and/or influenced by foreign governments spent more than \$100 million on Maine ballot initiatives between 2020 - 2023. In 2023, such entities were responsible for 83% of total referendum spending

THIS is not government of, by and for THE PEOPLE. It's foreign corporations. THIS is not how I want my State or my Country to function.

Polling shows that 82.4% of voters believe that influence of money is a threat to our democracy and 77.1% of voters support a constitutional amendment.

I AM ONE OF THESE PEOPLE.

The Maine Ethics Commission released their first annual report on July 24, 2024 containing public testimony from dozens of Mainers in support of a constitutional amendment that would restore the ability of States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending. Forty-two comments were submitted, a record for the Commission on any area of public policy, and 40 out of the 42 comments were in favor of the amendment.

I missed out adding my two-bits then and am making sure I do THIS TIME!

In 2023, Maine passed a historic referendum to ban foreign government spending in state elections and call on Congress to pass the For Our Freedom amendment. The bill passed with 86% support, the largest margin of victory of any initiative in state history.

I helped with the efforts to the success of that referendum. We are NOT stopping.

82.4% of voters believe that influence of money is a threat to our democracy and 77.1% of voters support a constitutional amendment.

NOT corporations and billionaires; they want an oligarchy and any future voting to be toothless WRT their power over our commonwealth efforts which started with the US Constitution.

For too long, the voices of Maine voters have been silenced by dark money special interest groups. With a Constitutional Amendment, we have an opportunity to stop corruption, protect election integrity,

and to restore confidence in our democracy. We ask that our Congressional Delegation stand with Maine voters and support an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Please register my support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow states and Congress to set reasonable limits on money in politics.

Christopher D'Amico
93 Oak Grove Drive
Brewer, Maine 04412
207-989-4289

From: [Shonna D](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Re: Invitation to Comment – Constitutional Amendments on Campaign Finance
Date: Friday, May 30, 2025 10:37:47 AM

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Thank you for your consideration. I fully support adding Campaign Finance reforms to the state Constitution. The money in politics is destroying our democracy. Governing should be about service to the people. It should be about doing what is right for the people, not what is best for corporations or lobbyists. We need more oversight on how much is being spent and who is paying for it. Certain types of spending should not be allowed, such as money coming from foreign individuals, businesses or governments.

Sincerely,
Shonna Davis of Ludlow, Maine
Sent from my iPhone

On May 29, 2025, at 7:21 PM, Aube, Julie <Julie.Aube@maine.gov> wrote:

To: Interested Persons

From: Commission Staff

Date: May 29, 2025

Re: Invitation to Comment – Report on Proposals to Amend the U.S. Constitution regarding Campaign Finance Regulation

This summer, the Maine Ethics Commission will publish an annual report on congressional proposals to amend the U.S. Constitution to allow greater regulation of the raising and spending of money in elections. Recent congressional proposals will be included in the report, along with confirmation whether members of Maine's delegation have co-sponsored the proposals.

You are invited to comment on any aspect of this topic by submitting written comments to the Commission no later than June 20, 2025 by emailing them to Julie.Aube@maine.gov. In your email, please use the subject line: Comments on Congressional Amendments.

Thank you,

Julie Aube

Julie Aube,
Commission Assistant
Maine Ethics Commission
135 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0135

Phone: (207) 287-4179
Fax: (207) 287-6775

<Invitation to Comment - Constitutional Amendment on Campaign Finance.pdf>

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director

Commission on Government Ethics and Election Practices

135 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Government Ethics and Election Practices,

My name is Jim Delamater. I reside in Oxford with my wife Jean. Although I am seventy-three I remain active on several boards and manage several LLC's, almost all of which are related to small business and economic development. I spent over 45 years working in the finance sector, including thirty-two years as president and CEO of a local Maine community bank. As a result of my many years of inter-action with people from all lines of work and "both sides of the political aisle" I have learned that Maine voters do have a sense of fairness and, frankly, the current election environment is anything but fair.

Despite a lot of efforts over the years to rein in election spending, especially, spending supported by so-called "dark money" and, even worse, "foreign influence". When I raise this issue, I find that nobody disagrees that we need to control or limit this sort of election interference.

I am certain that the members of the commission are fully aware of this issue and the amount of money that flows into Maine elections. Yet, the key question is, "What is the commission going to do about it?"

Please stand with Maine voters in support of an "Anti-Corruption" amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Respectfully,

Jim Delamater

President

Delamater Financial Consulting Group, LLC

207-393-0008

From: [Valerie Dornan](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 6:26:28 PM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices 135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov
June 20, 2025

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,

My name is Valerie Dornan and I live in Hancock, Maine. I was a volunteer on the Protect Maine Elections campaign and collected many, many signatures for Question 2, which passed in 2023 with overwhelming support. I'm submitting this testimony to express my support for a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of states and Congress to set limits on campaign spending and address foreign interference in our elections. On the campaign, nearly everyone I talked to, regardless of political party, was concerned about the role of money in our elections. Between 2020 and 2023, entities owned or controlled by foreign governments spent more than \$100 million to influence Maine's ballot initiatives. These weren't donations from people who live and vote here. These were dollars from foreign corporations looking to shape our laws to serve their bottom line — and we had no legal mechanism to stop them.

States are currently powerless to protect their elections from dark money and foreign interference. Maine should be able to ban foreign money in its own democratic processes but we can't do that until we pass a constitutional amendment.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to allow States and Congress to set limits on campaign spending.

Respectfully,
Valerie Dornan

571 Eastside Rd
Hancock, Maine
04640
valeriejonedornan@gmail.com
207 446 2742

TESTAMONY

June 10, 2025

Dear honorable members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election practices:

My name is William Dunham and I reside in Chesterville. I strongly support an amendment to our US constitution that will allow states and Congress to establish limits on campaign spending.

Big money, often dark money, now owns the Congress. We are living in an oligarchy. Citizens United decision is destroying the democracy. When one person can spend nearly \$300 million on one election, individual votes become nearly worthless. Members of Congress spend more than half their time raising money to stay in the lucrative job they have and very few problems get solved and decisions rarely favor the average citizens. The system has become blatantly corrupt.

Maine should be able to ban the influence of foreign corporate money and dark money from our elections, but this cannot be achieved without passing this constitutional amendment.

From: [Peter Garrett](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025 9:29:15 PM

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Jonathan Wayne,
Executive Director,
State of Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

May 28, 2025

Regarding the proposed Federal Constitutional Amendment on Election Funding

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,

I, Peter Garrett, am a retired professional geologist, living in Winslow. I am still involved in a wide variety of community and civic projects in Central Maine. I am also a longtime member of Rotary International, having served as Waterville's club President twice. Rotarians have a code of conduct called the 4-Way Test. Specifically we consider, regarding everything we think and do:

1.
Is it the Truth;
2.
Is it Fair to all concerned;
3.
Will it bring Goodwill and Better Friendships, and;
4.
Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

Applying this test to the current situation of election funding, it is very clear to me that:

The **Truth** is that several Supreme Court decisions that "money is speech" (1976), that "corporations are people" (1978), and the Citizens United decision that there should be "no limits on election funding" (2010) have allowed election funding to get completely out of

hand. Witnessing multi-million dollar gifts fly around publicly to support candidates in the recent Presidential election, should surely concern us.

It is clearly not **Fair**. Consider the fact that in the hotly contested race for one of Maine's Senators, the parties of both candidates raised in excess of 93% of their election funds from out of State. Those funders could not, of course, actually vote in the election. And I understand that much of the contributed funds might be "Dark Money" and/or from corporations with foreign ownership.

Regarding **Goodwill and Better Friendships**, the big battle between the Republican and Democratic Parties, hugely funded from out of state, served only to deepen the rifts between neighbors who actually vote.

Lastly, it is definitely **NOT Fair to all Concerned**. Thanks to the establishment of campaign funding through SuperPACs, though officially isolated from the candidates they support, clearly increases the level of funding available, much of it paying to spin negativity and lies in print, on TV and radio, and in social media.

I understand that at least Representatives in Congress spend several hours per day fundraising for the next election, raising between about \$3,000 and \$11,000 per day in their time on the phone or in meetings. Hours spent "dialing for dollars" are hours that members of Congress aren't spending aiding constituents in need, building relationships with other lawmakers, or advancing their important legislative and oversight responsibilities. *The result is that Members of Congress are beholden to the wishes of their largest donors — a kind of allowable bribery by and for the wealthiest.*

All of this is a good reason for a Constitutional Amendment that would allow both Congress and States to set reasonable limits on campaign spending in elections. It is being proposed as the 28th Amendment by American Promise, and has gained bipartisan support not only in Maine, but across the country.

With all this in mind, I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign funding and spending, and for your Commission to take a lead on this for our State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Peter Garrett, PhD

petergarrett.sgg@gmail.com

202 Eames Road, Winslow, ME 04901

207-592-0004

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Four-Way_Test

<https://issueone.org/articles/the-118th-congress-fundraising-treadmill/>

<https://americanpromise.net/>

From: [Mgoodale](#)
To: [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Election Ethics and Practices
Date: Friday, June 13, 2025 10:50:35 AM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135

June 13, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Martha Goodale and I live in Westbrook. I'm writing as a lifelong voter, a community volunteer, and a deeply concerned citizen to express my support for a constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system. Unchecked political spending is one of the greatest threats we face.

The people of Maine are tired of being outspent, outshouted, and overshadowed by billionaires' pacs and dark money groups with no ties to our state.

The facts speak for themselves: in the 2020 U.S. Senate race here in Maine, more than \$200 million was spent, 93% of it from outside the state. In the 2022 midterms, dark money groups nationally spent \$615 million. By 2024, that figure exploded to \$1.9 billion. These groups aren't just pushing ads — they're pushing us out of our own democracy.

People across the political spectrum are sounding the alarm. According to American Promise's polling, 82.4% of voters believe that the influence of money is a threat to our democracy, and 77.1% support a constitutional amendment to fix it.

That's why I joined the 86% of Maine voters who supported Question 2 in 2023.

We sent a clear message: it's time to restore the power of the people.

We need a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of Congress and the States to enact commonsense, reasonable limits on political spending and protects our elections from dark money and foreign interference.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Martha Goodale
Westbrook, Maine
goodwight@gmail.com

Nicole Grohoski
Senator, District 7



P.O. Box 1732
Ellsworth, ME 04605

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0135

June 18, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

Free and fair elections are the foundation of our country and our state, and we have the responsibility to ensure that they are conducted of, by, and for the people. That is why we must ensure that Maine people's voices are front and center in our political discourse.

Unfortunately, dark money special interest groups funded by the wealthy elite – often from out of state – threaten our core institutions. These factions are spending an unprecedented amount of money to influence our elections, and it gets worse and worse by the year.

Voters in my district, and indeed around the State, are sick and tired of having their voices silenced by millions of dollars in dark money political ads each election cycle. The current level of spending is poisonous to our democracy. As an elected official, I talk with a lot of folks from all across the political spectrum. I have yet to find a Mainer who supports unlimited spending on elections. Instead, they're asking me to do what I can to put a stop to it.

Maine voters have asked our Congressional Delegation to lead in an effort to pass an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow states and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending. The Q2 ballot measure that passed in 2023 with a record-breaking 86% support calls upon "each member of Maine's Congressional Delegation to actively support and promote an effective anti-corruption amendment to the United States Constitution[.]"

I hope our Congressional Delegation will listen to the Maine voters and support such an amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole C. Grohoski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Nicole Grohoski

3 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
State House (207) 287-1515 * Fax (207) 287-1585 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711
Nicole.Grohoski@legislature.maine.gov * legislature.maine.gov/senate

From: [Alan Harris](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Cc: [Alan Harris](#)
Subject: comments on Congressional Ammendments
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025 7:04:43 PM

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Re : limits on political spending . Sad that a comment really be necessary. The opponents say the 1 st Amendment protects speech in an uninhibited manner regardless of financial leverage all while promoting the idea that the first amendment should be more powerful for one citizen over another simply due to \$\$\$. They say , no problem, If you have the dough spend it and increase your political influence by 1000 fold over the poor man. Reasoning similar to the three fifths compromise baloney following the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Sorry but i'm not a slave to the wealthy man .

Sent from my iPhone

May 28, 2025

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director State of Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Jonathan Hopps, my family have lived in Cumberland, Maine since 1998. I am writing as a citizen and a supporter of Protect Maine Elections and American Promise.

I became integrally involved with this effort when Protect Maine Elections was seeking volunteers to get signatures for Question 2 to be on the ballot whose sole goal was to prevent foreign governments from influencing Maine elections by restricting spending by foreign-owned entities. You may recall over \$100 million flooded into the state from foreign entities whose only goal was to sway voters for the sole benefit of stockholder benefits – not Maine citizens. During this effort I volunteered to go to numerous towns and collect signatures. I happily did this in the cold of winter and the heat of the summer, in order to get it on the ballot. I got a chance to speak with individuals who were Democrats, Republicans and Independents. They were all sympathetic and eager to sign on to Question 2. The citizens of Maine saw the benefit with a whopping 86% favored the passage of Question 2. This amendment being endorsed in Maine by citizens, now needs your support to get it the U.S. Congress. Once passed the amendment will undoubtedly close the door on absurd spending across America.

Even though Mainers said their peace with this foreign funding question the corporations are back at it again in the courts and they want to reverse something the citizens of Maine Do Not Want. We, you and Congress can fix this and with an amendment to fix the Constitution forever on this issue. You the Commission are a critical piece in ensuring Maine Voices have been heard on this issue. Please help.

I respectfully on behalf of the thousands of Mainers who support this for your Commission to call on our Members of Congress to work to bring this anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow states like ours to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hopps
jonathan.hopps@gmail.com
(207) 671-8779

From: [Terri](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 6:28:16 AM

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My name is Theresa and I live in Wells, Maine. I proudly volunteered on the Protect Maine Elections campaign and helped collect signatures for Question 2, which passed in 2023 with overwhelming support. I'm submitting this testimony to express my support for a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of states and Congress to set limits on campaign spending and address foreign interference in our elections. While working on the campaign, I talked to thousands of Mainers and nearly everyone, regardless of political affiliation, was concerned about the role of money in our elections. Between 2020 and 2023, entities owned or controlled by foreign governments spent more than \$100 million to influence Maine's ballot initiatives. These weren't donations from people who live and vote here. These were dollars from foreign corporations looking to shape our laws to serve their bottom line — and we had no legal mechanism to stop them. States are currently powerless to protect their elections from dark money and foreign interference. Maine should be able to ban foreign money in its own democratic processes but we can't do that until we pass a constitutional amendment. I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to allow States and Congress to set limits on campaign spending.

Sincerely,
Theresa Jalbert

From: [Joss, Donna](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#); [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025 4:03:13 PM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

June 19, 2025

To the Honorable members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Practices:

My name is Donna M. Joss, I live in Bridgton, Maine and have been a voter in Maine for 14 years. I was very pleased to be able to collect signatures for the Protect Maine Elections and found most people in Bridgton were eager to sign the petition because of their concern about foreign money influencing our elections and ballot initiatives.

I am 86 years old, and have voted in every election since I was eligible. That's 65 years of voting! I always expected my vote to COUNT. However, in the last ten years or so, I have become more and more frustrated with what I consider election interference in our State and Federal elections by groups from outside the state, or groups whose primary interests are in foreign countries. These groups flood our state and country with millions upon millions of dollars to influence the outcomes of elections in favor of their countries and causes.

We citizens of Maine and America cannot compete with these huge amounts of money! We are out-spent and therefore the impact of our votes are completely diluted. We are out-voted! It is almost as if we have no vote at all. This is not how elections should be run, and at this point, we have no legal recourse to stop this election interference.

In my opinion, we need a constitutional amendment to ban outside and foreign money from interfering with and influencing our state and national elections, and therefore protect our very precious election processes. We need to have each one of our votes COUNT without interference from outside groups.

I am respectfully calling on each and every member of Congress to pass an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to allow each State and the U.S. Congress to set reasonable limits on all campaign spending. Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

Most Sincerely,
Dr. Donna M. Joss
27 Milbrook Rd.
Bridgton, Maine 04009
9783333339
djoss@worcester.edu

From: [Anna Kellar](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 1:50:10 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Julie, please see below the comments from Maine Citizens for Clean Elections:

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections has been the leading campaign finance organization in Maine for over thirty years and one of the nation's most respected state-based organizations advocating for democratically-funded elections.

MCCE supports a constitutional amendment to allow states and the federal government to set reasonable restrictions on campaign spending and endorsed the "Protect Maine Elections" initiative in 2023. The passage of that referendum by 86% of voters in 2023 renewed the cross-partisan mandate for such restrictions and made a strong statement to our Congressional delegation.

In November 2024, Mainers passed another referendum restricting contributions to Super PACs. This referendum passed with 75% of voters in favor. However, this referendum has been challenged, and may yet be struck down in court. If the restrictions are overturned, it would be yet another reason why a constitutional amendment is needed to allow states to regulate money in politics.

Voters have been clear about what they want our Congressional delegation to do, but the ability of voters to hold our delegation accountable depends on good information. That is where the role of the Ethics Commission and this report comes in.

Throughout U.S. history, when the Supreme Court was out of step with the will of the people, constitutional amendments have been necessary to lay out the powers of government to defend our rights. We believe that when policymakers consider how well our democracy is functioning, they should assess whether the will of the voters is being heard. Too often, there are big-money interests that try to use money to drown out the voice of the voters. When the money comes from unaccountable sources, or when the amount of money from one source is so large that it warps the campaign dialogue, it has an undemocratic effect that needs to be corrected by policymakers.

It can be difficult for everyday Mainers to obtain objective information about these and other vital proposals. For this reason, we urge the Commission to carefully assess pending constitutional amendment proposals and provide a comprehensive report on the role of our delegation in supporting those measures.

We urge the Ethics Commission to share not only direct Congressional action such as sponsoring or voting for an amendment, but also public statements on the issue so that voters

can assess how active the Congressional delegation's efforts are.

Anna Kellar (they/them)

Executive Director



207.252.9248



anna@democracymaine.org

☐

League of Women Voters of Maine

☐

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections

☐

Maine Students Vote

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Government Ethics and Election Practices
165 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0135

June 16, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

I am Donald M Kimmelman residing in Blue Hill, Maine. I am 90 years old. I have voted in every Presidential elections as well as almost every local election. I think voting is extremely important and I believe it is very unfair to have to the average voter like myself to have corporations and foreign governments contributing large sums of money to election campaigns. They do not contribute to benefit the welfare of the average ciitizen of this country, but to gain leverage to benefit their own interests and achieve an advantage over their competitors. Knowing that corporations and foreign governments are influencing our country's political policies this way discourages many average citizens from voting.

States now cannot limit the amount of money that corporations and foreign governments can donate to election campaigns. I want to implore our Members of Congress to put forth and work to pass an amendment to the U.S Constitution to enable States and Congress to set limits on campaign spending. .

Thank you for considering my comments on this very important matter.

Sincerely,
Donald M Kimmelm
donaldkimmelman@yahoo.com
207-374-7037



Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135

June 18, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Kaitlin LaCasse, and I served as the campaign manager for *Protect Maine Elections*, the ballot question committee formed by Maine voters to support Question 2 on the 2023 statewide ballot.

Supported by a record-breaking 86% of Maine voters, the 2023 initiative included two key provisions:

1. A ban on campaign spending by foreign governments—and the entities they own, control, or influence—in Maine elections.
2. An affirmation of Maine's support for an anti-corruption amendment to the United States Constitution, calling upon each member of Maine's Congressional delegation to actively support and promote such an amendment.

Following the passage of the initiative, four lawsuits were filed challenging the provision related to foreign government spending. While these legal challenges continue, the ban has not yet gone into effect. An anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution would provide a stronger, more permanent framework to address foreign influence and ensure Maine voters are protected from undue interference in our elections.

Maine voters are tired of being ignored. With overwhelming support, voters sent a clear message: They want elections and government to be of, by, and for everyday people—not dominated by wealthy special interests or foreign-controlled entities. There are few issues in our politics today that command such broad and crosspartisan agreement.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Mainers who voted in support of Question 2 in 2023, I respectfully urge Maine's Congressional delegation to take action to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution—one that restores the ability of Congress and the states to set reasonable limits on campaign spending and protect the voices of voters.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin LaCasse
Campaign Manager
Protect Maine Elections

From: [William LaCasse](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Sunday, June 15, 2025 11:37:27 AM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 15, 2025

Dear Honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is William LaCasse and I live in Scarborough, Maine. I'm proud to note that I grew up in Skowhegan, the home of Senator Margaret Chase Smith. I am a retired attorney and spent my entire 36 year legal career as a trial lawyer and Partner in a large law firm in Portland. I have been involved with both American Promise and Protect Maine elections. I strongly supported Question 2 which passed in 2023 with overwhelming support from maine voters.

I am submitting this testimony because I believe protecting our state from foreign government dark money is critical for all Maine citizens including my 3 children, their spouses and my 8 grandchildren, all of whom live in Maine.

I am sure you already know the dark money statistics, but I think the numbers merit repeating as the amounts are extraordinary: Between 2020 and 2023, foreign governments and entities they control spent over \$100 million to influence the outcome of Maine initiatives. These weren't donations from maine people and the large amounts of dark money overwhelmed the donations from Mainers like me. The advertising this dark money sponsored was blatantly dishonest and false.

Because of the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, Maine and other states are powerless to protect our elections from dark money and foreign interference. Maine needs to be able to protect the integrity of its elections, but we cannot exclude dark, foreign money without a constitutional amendment.

I respectfully ask our members of congress to work to advance an amendment to the U.S Constitution to allow States and Congress to set limits on campaign spending.

Thank you for all of your work,

William O LaCasse
lacassebilly@gmail.com

207-318-3657
52 Old Neck Rd
Scarborough, Maine 04074

From: [Mary Ann Larson](#)
To: [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Public comment on proposals to amend US constitution regarding regulation of campaign finance activity
Date: Sunday, May 25, 2025 1:55:02 PM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, ME

May 25, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,

I collected signatures at the polls in November 2023 in support of a constitutional amendment that would allow states to begin to set limits on campaign spending. It was an "easy sell". People seemed to immediately, instinctively understand the dangers we face without some change to the current system. I believe those same voters would be even more alarmed today about the influence of unlimited monies infecting our system of government, and indeed our democracy itself.

We are at a turning point. We just watched as the richest man in the world essentially bought a presidency. Without significant change regarding campaign finance we will continue to watch monied interests erode our elections and our democracy.

I encourage your support for an amendment to our constitution so that we can begin to reign in the influence of money on our electoral system.

Thank you for your work.

Mary Ann Larson
7 Orchard Hills Pkwy.
Bangor, ME 04401

From: [Doris Luther](#)
To: [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Proposals to Amend the United States Constitution regarding Regulation of Campaign Finance Activity
Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025 1:48:17 PM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

States are currently powerless to protect their elections from dark money and foreign interference. Maine should be able to ban foreign money in its own democratic processes but we can't do that until we pass a constitutional amendment.
I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Doris Luther
863 River Road
Hollis, ME 04042
dsluther1049@gmail.com

Executive Director Jonathan Wayne
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

June 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,

My name is Jeremy Lynch, and I live in Gorham, Maine. As a citizen who is deeply concerned with the state of our democracy, I'm writing to express my urgent support for a constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system.

We are at a critical turning point in our country. Do we truly believe in "liberty and justice for all" or "liberty and justice for those who can buy it"? A vast majority of Americans believe in common sense restrictions to campaign finance to curb outsized foreign and domestic influence. In a 2023 poll by the Pew Research Center 82% of U.S. adults said there should be limits on the amount of money individuals and groups can spend on campaigns.

Here in Maine, my fellow citizens and I are frustrated by being outspent and overshadowed by billionaires and dark money groups who have no connection to our state. In Maine's 2020 U.S. Senate race, over \$200 million was spent—93% of it from out-of-state! Nationally, dark money spending in the 2022 midterms reached \$615 million, and by 2024, that figure exploded to \$1.9 billion. That's right, almost 2 billion dollars! These groups aren't just funding ads—they're drowning out the voices of everyday citizens and eroding public trust. With trillions in national debt, do we not think there is anything better that we could be spending billions of dollars on?

This isn't a partisan issue, either— it's an American issue. According to polling from American Promise, 82.4% of voters view the influence of money in politics as a threat to our democracy, and 77.1% support a constitutional amendment to address it. So let's do it!

We need a constitutional amendment that gives Congress and the states the authority to set reasonable limits on political spending, protect our elections from dark money, and guard against foreign influence. Period.

I respectfully urge our Members of Congress to champion and advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Without it our democracy will further degrade into plutocracy.

Thank you for your attention and consideration to this existential issue,

Jeremy Lynch

From: [Angel Gonzalez Merrill](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 1:39:35 PM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 20th, 2025

Dear honorable members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

As a young American, my generation faces big challenges. We deserve a government that listens to us, not just to the wealthiest donors.

Right now, dark money groups are flooding Maine's elections. They are trying to shape the future, our future, without accountability and without our consent.

Passing a constitutional amendment to get big money out of politics is an important step forward. This amendment would help Maine take back the right to regulate political spending and curb the influence of big money. It's about restoring the principle that elections should be decided by voters, not the highest bidder.

Young people have the most at stake. Let's not let our voices be silenced.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Sincerely,
Angel Gonzalez Merrill
Eustis, Maine

Send to Julie.Aube@Maine.Gov

Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director

State of Maine

Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

135 State House Station

August, Maine 04333-0135

Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 20th, 2025

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Kelly Merrill, and I serve as the Co-Chair of the Maine Green Independent Party. I work on numerous issues, including housing, environmental justice, and healthcare. But the issue that is most fundamental to achieving gains in these areas is democracy reform and getting the big dark money out of politics so the will of the people can be heard.

Unchecked political spending is the greatest threat to our democracy, and we are currently seeing the consequences of this play out in real time, in a system run amok with oligarchs and megalomaniacs gleefully gutting the last vestiges of democracy.

Referendums

In my recent years as a political director, I have seen people's confidence in democracy plummet. People are totally disillusioned and demoralized by this system of subterfuge that denies our ability to affect any real change in our politics or political system. In fact, some of the only people who wouldn't sign the 2023 referendum petition to get money out of politics in Maine replied with the cynical shut-down retort, "Good luck with that."

The referendum is one of the most powerful tools in the people's toolbox. When legislators fail to represent the will of the people or when the governor vetoes legislative measures, we who work on the issues have the option to gather a group of organizers, speak to at least 100,000 Mainers, and get the question on the ballot to put the question to the voters. So we exercised the power of the referendum, and 86% of Mainers voted to ban foreign spending in our elections.

According to data presented in a report by American Promise, foreign government-influenced entities spent more than \$100 million on Maine ballot initiatives between 2020 and 2023. In 2023 alone, they were responsible for 83% of all referendum spending in our state. We passed the referendum in spite of this money, but our will is *still* being challenged in court saying we are violating the "free speech" of these outside entities. Why? Because these corporations have

unlimited resources and a series of misguided U.S. Supreme Court decisions have left states powerless to defend themselves, and powerless to defend us.

State & National Elections.

In 2020, when I helped direct the US Senate campaign in Maine, we experienced the outsized influence of money in our elections. More than \$200 million was spent on that race, and 93% of it was from out of state. That money came in the form of super PACs overwhelming the airwaves with negative media ads and mailers, and drowning out people-powered efforts. It's outrageous that we the people should be so abused.

Power was also exerted in other nefarious ways during that election cycle. Corporate-controlled media blocked access to the last public debate, though our candidate had arguably won the first 3, citing the fact that the candidate had not previously been an elected official being a disqualifier, a completely nonsensical argument. They also informed us that the campaign was not "newsworthy" and challenged us to take them to court. Though we filed a complaint with the Federal Elections Commission, justice doesn't move quickly for independent, people-powered campaigns that aren't connected to big-money political machines.

There is a pattern of abuse here.

By 2022 midterms, dark money groups nationally spent \$615 million. And by 2024 that figure exploded to \$1.9 billion.

In 2024, I served as the national campaign manager for the Green Party's presidential candidate, and the money factor obliterated all else. The opposition's expenditures included a 30-staff operation devoted to disrupting our campaign. And further, with regard to ethics, we are the only presidential campaign that qualified for matching funds, an anti-corruption measure that rewards the small donors, and honors the spirit of democracy.

In both races we were outspent 1000 to 1.

Conclusion

The only viable path forward is a constitutional amendment. It's the only solution strong enough to override decades of legal precedent that center the protection of outside, unfettered corporate spending under the guise of free speech.

And we need those protections now. We cannot wait for another election cycle; in fact, we worry about there even being another election cycle. The threat is here and already has us by the throat.

Our voices are being drowned out. If money is speech and money is power, the will of the people will never be heard. This is dangerous and I fear for our future. The numbers of people

who have been squeezed and have nothing left to give, and feel like they have nothing left to lose is rising exponentially. I think of the words of Martin Luther King Jr. who said that a riot is the language of the unheard.

I urgently call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly F. Merrill
Co-Chair, Maine Green Independent Party
kfmerrill@gmail.com
207-650-8863

From: [Keith Newman](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Monday, June 16, 2025 8:19:19 PM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta Maine 04333-0135

“Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Keith Newman and I live and vote in Maine. Maine elections must be decided by people who live here, not by corporations who don’t breathe our air, drink our water, or eat food raised on our lands.

It was once said, corporations are people too. This is false. What corporation ever mourned a loved one lost to cancer? What corporation ever served in combat? What corporation had to work time into their day to attend a teacher conference involving their child? People do things corporations can’t, and people vote. Corporations should not.

In 2023, Maine passed a historic referendum to ban foreign government spending in state elections and call on Congress to pass the “For Our Freedom” amendment. The bill passed with 86% support, the largest margin of victory of any initiative in state history.

Mainers have expressed their desires. We want to live in freedom, and that includes freedom from unwarranted corporate influences. And now it’s up to you, to “Do Your Job.” Enforce the wishes of the people. If you choose not to, then we must ask: Are we truly a government of the people, by the people for the people, or do we operate based on the consent of the corporate entities?

Sincerely Yours,
Keith Newman

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 20, 2025

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,

My name is David O'Brien, and I'm writing on behalf of RepresentUs to express our enthusiastic support for an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution to allow Congress and states like Maine to set reasonable limits on campaign spending. RepresentUs is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to fighting political corruption and strengthening American democracy. We strongly supported the Question 2 campaign, which reaffirmed Maine's 2013 resolution calling for an anti-corruption amendment.

Maine is a national leader on money in politics, thanks to innovative policies like Question 2's foreign spending prohibition. Unfortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court has limited the ability of states and Congress to restrict the flow of money into politics, leading to an explosion of political spending since 2010. Last year was the second most expensive presidential election since 1998, with a record amount of dark money spent on federal elections.¹

This flood of money is deeply unpopular with the American people and has severely undermined the public's faith in our democracy. The public overwhelmingly supports limits on election spending. Recent polling by the Pew Research Center found that 72% of American adults support limits on election spending, and 85% believe that the cost of campaigns makes it hard for good people to run for office.² Thanks to the Supreme Court, however, a constitutional

¹ Hannah Grabenstein, "The cost of this election," *PBS News*, 5 Nov. 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/live-update/election-news-2024/the-cost-of-this-election>; "Dark Money Hit a Record High of \$1.9 Billion in 2024 Federal Races," *Brennan Center for Justice*, 7 May 2025, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/dark-money-hit-record-high-19-billion-2024-federal-races>

² Cerda, Andy & Daniller, Andrew, "7 facts about Americans' views of money in politics," *Pew Research Center*, 23 Oct. 2023, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/10/23/7-facts-about-americans-views-of-money-in-politics/>

amendment is necessary to implement many of the reasonable restrictions on money in politics that the American people want.

We applaud Maine's voters for taking a stand against political corruption and reaffirming the state's commitment to a constitutional amendment on money in politics. We look forward to seeing Maine's congressional delegation lead the way on this vital safeguard for our democracy. Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

David O'Brien
Policy Director
dobrien@represent.us
[RepresentUs](https://represent.us)

From: [AJ Olsen](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Proposals to Amend the United States Constitution regarding Regulation of Campaign Finance Activity
Date: Sunday, June 15, 2025 4:55:12 PM

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Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is AJ Olsen and I stand with 86% of Mainers who want our Federal delegation to amend our constitution to make our campaigns and elections less-corrupt, more fair, and responsive to the wants and needs of the people they serve.

Sincerely,
AJ Olsen
Raymond, Maine

From: [Charles Ordway](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 4:04:53 PM

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FULL PUBLIC COMMENT

RE: The 28th Amendment, Creation of the Maine Anti-Corruption Bureau, Expanded Legislative Power to the People, and the Revival of the American Republic

From: Charles Ordway, Citizen of Maine

To: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director – Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

Email: Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

Date: [May-23-25]

To the Honorable Members of the Maine Ethics Commission and the Citizens of this Republic:

My name is **Charles Ordway**, I'm no big shot. I've never flown on a private jet. I've never cut a deal in a backroom. I've worked. had family members who served. I've paid my taxes and fought for what's right. I've lived the kind of life that politicians campaign around, but rarely fight for once they're elected.

I come to you today not wearing a silk tie, but with calloused hands and a fire in my chest. I come to speak for the **down-trou'din**, the overworked, the overlooked, the rural and the poor, the forgotten patriots who still say grace,

fly flags, and believe in justice and even country when it doesn't believe in them.

Like Johnny Cash sang, *"I wear the black for the poor and the beaten down, living in the hopeless, hungry side of town."* That's who I speak for. That's who democracy is supposed to serve. And that's who's been shut out of the halls of power for far too long.

So hear me now, plain and clear:

We the People are not asking—we are demanding. Not politely. Not quietly. Not someday. Now.

and I write this letter not merely as a Mainer, but as a citizen of the United States—a **steward of the Constitution, a defender of liberty, and a descendant of the Revolution** that birthed this nation.

I am not a lawmaker. I am not a billionaire. I am not a tool of lobbyists or parties. **I am the governed. I am the taxed. I am the ignored. And I am done being quiet.**

Let it be said clearly: **the American people are not asleep. We are Woke and wide awake, and we will not tolerate the slow poisoning of our constitutional-Republic and representative democracy by unchecked money, political cowardice, and the silencing of the very people this government was designed to serve.**

I rise today to demand sweeping, historic action to meet a historic crisis. I call upon the people of Maine—and every state that still believes in liberty—to support:

- **A 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution** that reclaims our democracy from corporate capture

- The immediate creation of a **Maine Anti-Corruption Bureau** with real enforcement authority
- A full expansion of **Clean Elections to every level of government**
- **Term limits, ethical accountability, and mandatory public disclosure** for every public office
- A binding **People's Veto**, a **People's Agenda Clause**, and a **People's Legislative Trigger** to ensure that **the public—not politicians—sets the course of our future**
- The extension of **legislative days and public access**, and the recognition of **public recall** as a constitutional right
- And finally, the permanent **banishment of political lies, AI propaganda, and dark money influence from our democracy**

I. We Were Not Founded by Cowards, and We Will Not Be Governed by Them

Our forebears risked everything—**blood, bread, family, future**—to declare that liberty belongs to the people, not to monarchs or merchants. Today, that same spirit demands a rebirth of accountability.

We are ruled not by kings, but by capital. Not by consent, but by deception. Not by votes, but by valuations. That ends now.

The **28th Amendment must serve as our modern Magna Carta**—a line drawn in stone, not sand. It must:

Repeal the judicial perversions that call money “speech” and corporations “citizens”

- Restore the power of Congress and the States to regulate, limit, and outlaw corporate and dark money in elections
- Require real-time, public donor disclosure for all campaign contributions over \$50
- Criminalize any coordination between candidates and outside money groups
- Ban foreign entities, shell nonprofits, and AI-driven manipulation from our elections

No more unlimited money. No more anonymous influence. No more fake representation.

II. The Oath Must Be More Than Words

Every elected official who places their hand on a Bible or Constitution and then violates that oath through fraud, manipulation, bribery, or silence must be:

- Investigated by law
- Prosecuted as a criminal
- Removed by force of statute
- And barred for life from betraying the public trust again

If we expect children to tell the truth in school, **we must demand truth from those who govern nations.**

III. The Maine Anti-Corruption Bureau –

Justice With Teeth

This Bureau must be more than symbolic. It must be constitutional, independent, and dangerous to those who would defraud the people. It must have:

- Subpoena and audit power
- Authority over all campaigns, nonprofits, PACs, and elected offices
- Whistleblower protection and citizen oversight
- The power to initiate investigations and refer criminal cases
- The funding and independence to act without fear or favor

Corruption fears light. The Bureau must shine like the sun.

IV. Ethics, Term Limits, and Clean Elections for Every Public Servant

The era of career politicians, private donors, and self-dealing public servants must end. I demand:

- Judges: One 12-year term—no reappointment
- DAs and County Officials: Two 4-year terms max
- Every public servant to sign a **binding People's Oath**, enforceable by law
- Annual public disclosure of all financial interests, donations, and conflicts
- **Clean Elections** eligibility for every elected position—from governor to school board

If it's a public office, it must answer to the public—period.

V. The People's Power Must Be Codified

No more symbolic ballots. No more ignored petitions. No more closed doors.

I demand:

The People's Veto Clause

The public must be able to repeal any law passed by the legislature via verified citizen referendum.

The People's Agenda Clause

If 49.99% or more (Majority) of voters support a measure, it must receive a public hearing, legislative debate, and floor vote and passed without Impeding the people. **No more silencing near-majority rule.**

The People's Session Trigger

If 5% or more of registered voters sign a petition supporting a bill, the Maine Legislature must hold public hearings and a full vote within 90 days.

If the people can gather, the Legislature must convene.

VI. Expand Legislative Sessions & Force Public Access

Democracy dies in silence and shadows. I demand:

- A mandatory **15-day extension of each legislative session**, plus **one additional day for each missed or shortened session year**
- A minimum of **2 business days of public notice and review** before any vote on constitutional, electoral, or ethics laws
- Mandatory live streaming, transcription, and public commenting for all such debates

VII. Public Recall – Power Restored

Any elected official who:

- Violates their oath
- Commits fraud
- Blocks the People's Agenda
- Or ignores verified public petitions

...must be subject to **immediate public recall via ballot initiative**.

You were hired by the people. You can be fired by the people.

VIII. Purge the Lies: Ban Political Disinformation and Digital Fraud

- False political ads must be removed within 48 hours of fact verification
- AI-generated deep fakes and misinformation must be criminalized

- Full transparency on who funds every message, every ad, every voice
- Repeat violators must be banned from future political spending

You cannot lie your way into power and call it democracy.

IX. Let Maine Lead. Let the People Rise. Let the Republic Be Reborn.

Dirigo — I lead.

We led at statehood. We led in conscience. And now we must lead in this generation's greatest struggle: **the defense of American democracy.**

We are not powerless. We are not ignorant. We are not expendable.

We are the many.

We are the governed.

We are the American people.

And we are taking our Republic back. **Dirigo**, the North Star that guided our state into being, still shines above our heads. We are not followers. Maine has never been about submission. From **William King**, our first governor, to **Margaret Chase Smith**, the conscience of the Senate, Maine has always stood first—against oppression, against corruption, and against fear.

Now, once again, **it's time to lead.**

The Spirit of 1776 Lives in Maine

Samuel Adams called for "vigorous exertions of virtue and vigilance."

Thomas Paine warned: *"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must... undergo the fatigue of supporting it."*

I believe the fatigue is worth it. And I believe **Maine can lead the next revolution—not of war, but of truth.**

This is our time to restore integrity, justice, and democracy itself. Maine has led before. Let us lead again. Dirigo. E Pluribus Unum. We, the People, are ready. This is our time. This is our stand. Dirigo. E Pluribus Unum. We the People—shall not yield.

With purpose and power and in patriotic duty and defiant hope,

Charles Ordway

From: [Clifton Page](#)
To: [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution
Date: Friday, June 13, 2025 11:11:11 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,

My name is Clifton M. Page. I am a registered voter and resident of the Town of Blue Hill, Maine.

I'm writing as a lifelong voter, a community volunteer, and a deeply concerned citizen to express my support for a constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system.

I believe the American democratic system is at a crossroads — and that unchecked political spending is one of the greatest threats we face. Voters across the political spectrum are becoming increasingly disillusioned with our political system. The people of Maine are tired of being outspent, outshouted, and overshadowed by billionaires and dark money groups with no ties to our state.

The facts speak for themselves: in the 2020 U.S. Senate race here in Maine, more than \$200 million was spent, 93% of it from outside the state. In the 2022 midterms, dark money groups nationally spent \$615 million. By 2024, that figure exploded to \$1.9 billion. These groups aren't just pushing ads — they're pushing us out of our own democracy. They are turning this country into an oligarchy of the rich and powerful instead of the democracy set up by our Founding Fathers. People across the political spectrum are sounding the alarm.

According to American Promise's polling, 82.4% of voters believe that the influence of money is a threat to our democracy, and 77.1% support a constitutional amendment to fix it.

That's why I joined the 86% of Maine voters who supported Question 2 in 2023. We sent a clear message: it's time to restore the power of the people. We need a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of Congress and the States to enact commonsense, reasonable limits on political spending and protects our elections from dark money and foreign interference.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you very much for your commitment to government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Clifton M Page
110 Curtis Cove Road
Blue Hill
Maine 04614



Comment Submission to the Maine Ethics Commission

Pursuant to Section 2, Part 3 of Ballot Question 2 of 2023,¹ the “Prohibit Foreign Spending in Elections Initiative,” the Maine Policy Institute respectfully submits the following comment to assist the Ethics Commission in identifying congressional proposals that would amend the U.S. Constitution to regulate political speech, campaign finance, or corporate rights.

Two such proposals have been introduced in the 119th Congress, both with the current or previous support of Maine’s congressional delegation.

1. **The “We the People Amendment,”** introduced by Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and previously co-sponsored by Rep. Chellie Pingree;^{2 3}
2. **The “Democracy for All Amendment,”** was reintroduced by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and co-sponsored by Sen. Angus King.⁴

Maine Policy Institute opposes both of these proposals. Each would substantially weaken First Amendment protections for individuals and groups to engage in political speech and advocacy, and both would give governments sweeping new powers to control, limit, or prohibit the communication of ideas in the political arena.

We the People Amendment

The “We the People Amendment” would be a fundamental rewrite of American constitutional doctrine. It includes two provisions of particular concern:

- **First**, it declares that only “natural persons” are entitled to constitutional rights. This would eliminate the constitutional rights of corporations, nonprofit associations, media entities, and other legal organizations. While some may support this provision as a way to limit corporate influence in politics, the actual impact would be to strip basic constitutional protections, such as free speech, due process, and equal protection, from institutions that form the backbone of civil society, the press, and the modern economy.

Such a measure would not only silence businesses, unions, advocacy organizations, and media outlets in political discourse, but could also allow governments to target disfavored entities with arbitrary enforcement actions, censorship, or denial of legal protections. It would overturn decades of settled law protecting the rights of non-profit corporations like the NAACP, ACLU, or journalistic organizations like *The New York Times* to assert First Amendment claims. Removing

¹ [https://ballotpedia.org/Maine_Question_2,_Prohibit_Foreign_Spending_in_Elections_Initiative_\(2023\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Maine_Question_2,_Prohibit_Foreign_Spending_in_Elections_Initiative_(2023))

² <https://jayapal.house.gov/2025/02/13/jayapal-introduces-constitutional-amendment-to-reverse-citizens-united-2/>

³ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-joint-resolution/54/cosponsors>

⁴

<https://www.shaheen.senate.gov/shaheen-renews-push-to-overturn-citizens-united-ruling-rid-american-elections-of-dark-money-and-excessive-corporate-campaign-spending>



their personhood might also allow such organizations to be targeted via unfair lawsuits, due to the removal of personhood-based due process rights for these groups.

- **Second**, the amendment explicitly states that “money is not speech.” This is both legally incoherent and dangerously broad. Nearly all modern political speech requires expenditures, from printing yard signs and renting venues to hosting websites or producing advertisements. To say that expenditures are not protected speech is to deny protection to any speech that involves financial resources—a standard that could allow governments to ban campaign ads, yard signs, or even books expressing certain political viewpoints.

Democracy for All Amendment

The “Democracy for All Amendment” is less extreme but remains deeply troubling. It authorizes Congress and state legislatures to regulate or limit campaign expenditures—including a candidate’s own funds—and permits different rules for natural persons and corporate entities.

While it does not explicitly strip corporations of all constitutional rights, it nonetheless allows governments to treat speakers unequally based solely on their legal form. This undermines the principle of equal protection and creates a two-tiered system where some speakers can be silenced more easily than others. The amendment’s vague language would also empower lawmakers to regulate a wide range of political expression and advocacy without clear limits, risking arbitrary and viewpoint-discriminatory enforcement.

The amendment includes a carveout to protect freedom of the press, but it offers no clarity as to what constitutes “the press.” In a world where anyone can publish, blog, or record a podcast, this could give regulators arbitrary authority to pick winners and losers in the speech marketplace.

Conclusion

Both proposed amendments threaten to erode the core protections of the First Amendment under the guise of campaign finance reform. MPI firmly believes that efforts to limit “money in politics” must not come at the expense of Americans’ ability to speak freely about their government, candidates, or public policy. Any attempt to allow the government to decide who gets to speak, or how much, undermines the very foundation of representative democracy.

Furthermore, neither amendment is likely to succeed legislatively. Constitutional amendments require two-thirds support in both chambers of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the states. Given the partisan divide on these issues and the low likelihood of such a coalition forming, these proposals are largely symbolic. However, symbolism matters—especially when it signals a willingness to compromise the First Amendment.



Maine Policy Institute urges the Ethics Commission to note that Maine Reps. Chellie Pingree⁵ and Jared Golden,⁶ as well as Sen. Angus King,⁷ currently or have previously indicated support for the Democracy for All Amendment. Furthermore, Rep. Pingree was previously a cosponsor of the We the People Amendment. We respectfully urge Maine policymakers and citizens to reject these misguided efforts to weaken the speech rights of individuals and associations alike.

Respectfully submitted,
Maine Policy Institute
June 2025

⁵ <https://pingree.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=4466>

⁶ <https://golden.house.gov/issues/good-government-anti-corruption-clean-elections>

⁷

<https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/dem/releases/durbin-duckworth-join-shaheen-in-push-to-overturn-citizens-united-ruling>

From: [Into the Wilderness](#)
To: [Chris Cayer](#); [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: American Promise
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 1:32:34 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon! This email is to express my support for the Protect Maine Elections from Foreign Influence referendum, which was passed overwhelmingly by the voters with about 81% of the vote. It is unusual for a referendum to pass with such strong support from the public. I know that, unfortunately, this referendum has been held up in court due to its supposed violation of the Constitution. However, I am hopeful that this much-needed referendum will soon become state law. For example, Maine people with CMP/Versant are amongst the states with the highest electricity rates in this country. In fact, LD1963 just failed in the Maine Legislature, which would have provided whistleblower protection against harassment and dismissal to independent contractors, who report fraud, abuse, and waste to the PUC. Tell me that foreign outside influence did not have something to do with the failure of LD1963! Thank you!

Val Philbrick
Old Orchard Beach
(207) 779-7990

From: [Aube, Julie](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: FW: Undeliverable: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Sunday, June 22, 2025 8:16:06 PM

From: Barbara Presson <barbarapresson1@gmail.com>

To: julie.aube@maine.gov

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Fri, 20 Jun 2025 15:23:23 -0400

Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendmemts

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Jonathan Wayne

Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

135 Statehouse Station

Augusta, Maine 00333-0135

Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

Dear Honorable Members of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

I am a voting resident from Ellsworth. In 2023 was excited to vote, along with 86% of those voting, to ban foreign interference in Maine elections. That I should have to do so undergirds the necessity for an Amenent to the U S Constitution to ban dark money and foreign interference in elections in all our 50 states.

Lawsuits by monied foreign interests as well as manifestly unsuitable and erroneous court decisions have left states defenseless against foreign intrusions into state elections. I well remember the huge infusion of Canadian cash to defeat Mainers' efforts to control sovereign lands and protect our precious forests from foreign energy intrusion in 2024.

Only a Constitutional Amendment can ensure protection for Maine and her 49 sister-states from this kind of encroachment into state governance. I urge all Maine lawmakers to support a federal remedy, through a Constitutional Amendment, to ban all foreign interference in the affairs of the 50 United States. It is your respinsibility to make certain a Constitutional Amendment is enacted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Presson

[36 Laffin Way](#)

[Ellsworth](#) 04505

barbarapresson1@gmail.com

860 377 7908

From: [Patricia Reed](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: comments on congressional ammendments
Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 2:17:12 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

June 16, 2025

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:"

I would like to go on the record as supporting any bill that would limit the amount of money any one person or group can donate to a campaign. Our elections should not be decided by who can raise the most money. And - every donor and the amount donated should be made public so "We, the people..." can see where the financing came from. Our 2024 election is a good example of why we need that information available.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to allow States and Congress to set limits on campaign spending.

Thank you.

*Patricia Reed
Orono, Maine 04473*

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 19, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices,

My name is Sadie Rezin and I currently live in Bangor, Maine. I proudly volunteered on the Protect Maine Elections campaign and helped to collect signatures for Question 2 in the 2023 election, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. I am submitting this testimony to encourage you to take action on the next step: securing a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending and shut the door on foreign interference in our elections.

While working on the campaign I spoke with thousands of Mainers on all parts of the political spectrum- and each one was deeply concerned with the role of money in our democracy. This issue resonated with people because it was not partisan, but people could personally see the impact of foreign influences in our elections and recognized the change needed within our existing system.

In Maine's 2020 US Senate race, outside groups poured \$113 million into election advertisements and, as most of us remember, almost never ending amounts of attack ads. \$8 out of every \$10 was spent on these attack ads, and they seemed to be one of the only things people remembered about that election. Maine voters were overwhelmed by negative advertisements put out by entities that should have had no bearing on our elections- and they have been powerless to stop it without a legal mechanism.

Federal court decisions have left the states powerless to protect the integrity of their elections. Maine should be able to ban foreign interference in its own democratic processes- but we can't do that unless Congress acts to fix the Constitution.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

Sincerely,
Sadie Rezin
sadierezin@gmail.com
(207) 751-0373

From: [Jeff Smith](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 3:44:25 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Gentleladies and goodmen,

Please find here attached my comment in testimony to the Maine Ethics Commission in support of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow states and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending, including foreign political campaign spending influencing federal elections.

Maine has twice imposed reasonable limits on campaign spending, in 2013 with a bipartisan resolution in the State Legislature and again in 2023 at the ballot box with a record breaking 86% support!

The ballot measure passed in 2023 calls upon "each member of Maine's Congressional Delegation to actively support and promote an effective anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

I urge you and your committee to support and ensure early enactment of this long overdue mandate to and by our Congress, please.



[Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director.pdf](#)

Sincerely thank you,
Jeff

Jeff Smith
207-323-3739 mobile
Swanville ME 04915

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov
June 16, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Janice Strout and I live in Hulls Cove, a small part of Bar Harbor. I have never been very involved in politics but I am speaking out more and more. I am a baker here on Mount Desert Island. I'm writing as a 67-year-old, lifelong voter, and a deeply concerned citizen to express my support for a constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system.

I believe the American democratic system is at a very scary crossroads and that unchecked political spending is one of the greatest threats we face. Voters across the political spectrum are becoming increasingly disillusioned with our political system. The people of Maine are tired of being outspent, outshouted, and overshadowed by billionaires and dark money groups with no ties to our state.

The facts speak for themselves: in the 2020 U.S. Senate race here in Maine, more than \$200 million was spent, 93% of it from outside the state. In the 2022 midterms, dark money groups nationally spent \$615 million. By 2024, that figure exploded to \$1.9 billion. These groups aren't just pushing ads — they're pushing us out of our own democracy.

People across the political spectrum are sounding the alarm. According to American Promise's polling, 82.4% of voters believe that the influence of money is a threat to our democracy, and 77.1% support a constitutional amendment to fix it.

That's why I joined 86% of Maine voters who supported Question 2 in 2023. We sent a clear message: It's time to restore the power of the people.

We need a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of Congress and the States to enact commonsense, reasonable limits on political spending and protects our elections from dark money and foreign interference.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you very much, Janice Strout

From: [Elizabeth Sullivan](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Saturday, June 21, 2025 12:12:56 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

June 20, 2025

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on
Governmental Ethics and
Election Practices,

My name is Elizabeth Sullivan, and I'm writing to respectfully but urgently implore you to reflect on the state of our country and to consider the voices of my fellow Maine citizens. The overwhelming (indeed, record-setting-support) passage of a referendum in 2022 made Maine's voters' pleas very clear: we are calling for a constitutional amendment to prevent big money — and particularly big, corporate and even foreign governmental money — from further poisoning the democratic process that our country espouses and, I hope, endeavors to be. Mainers from across the political spectrum have voted resoundingly in support of preventing corporate overreach into our electoral process, and it is essential that we do not delay in acting accordingly.

We are at a point of crisis. Campaign finance reform needs to happen now. The notion of each citizen having one vote is the bedrock of this country, and it is quickly eroding in the wake of completely ludicrous claims that a corporation has the same rights as a human being. Please support a constitutional amendment to reverse the disastrous effects of the 2010

Citizens United decision and to prevent the tyranny of corporate power buying elections now and in the future.

Thank you for your time and earnest consideration of my and other Mainers' comments.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sullivan

7 Ballard Street

South Portland, ME 04106

sullivan.elizabeth5@gmail.com

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov
June 17, 2025

Dear honorable members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is James Swan, and I'm a resident of Waldoboro, Maine (04572). I'm writing to express my strong support for a constitutional amendment that would allow Congress and the states to set reasonable limits on campaign spending. As someone who cares deeply about civic engagement, transparency, and protecting the voice of everyday citizens, this issue hits close to home.

Like many Mainers, I've become increasingly concerned with the influence of big money in politics. I supported the 2023 ballot measure and was proud to lend my voice to Protect Maine Elections because I believe that unchecked campaign spending erodes public trust and weakens the foundation of representative government. We should not have to compete with corporate interests or dark money to be heard by our elected officials.

With 86% of Maine voters backing the 2023 initiative—a truly bipartisan show of unity—it's clear that this isn't a fringe concern. This is a mandate. We expect our congressional delegation to not only support but also actively promote an effective anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

I encourage the Commission to reflect this overwhelming public support in your report and to amplify the message that Maine continues to lead the way in restoring integrity to our political system.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and for your ongoing commitment to Maine's democratic values.

Be kind. Be well.

Respectfully,
James Swan
jim@james-swan.com
Waldoboro, Maine 04572

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

June 20th, 2025

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

People in Maine have seen their elections dominated by big money from outside sources. And this spending has real consequences.

In 2020, Maine saw a \$200 million Senate race, and it was like we were 20 feet under snow in an avalanche and no one could hear us. That is when I first became excited about the possibility of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow states and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending.

As an average Mainer, it's nearly impossible to compete with billionaires, but what they can't buy with money is the deep love and passion we feel for the outdoors and the freedom that our constitution guarantees.

Maine has now twice affirmed its support for a constitutional amendment that would allow Americans to limit campaign contributions and undisclosed political spending - first in 2013 with a bipartisan resolution in the State Legislature and again in 2023 at the ballot box with a record breaking 86% support.

The ballot measure passed in 2023 calls upon "each member of Maine's Congressional Delegation to actively support and promote an effective amendment to the United States Constitution[.]" I hope that the members of our Congressional Delegation are listening.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Trahan

From: [Steve Turner](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments On Congressional Amendments
Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025 1:26:10 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

"Our Constitution must go hand-in-hand with (the times) else we may as well require a man to wear the coat that fitted him as a boy." -- Thomas Jefferson

Julie Aube
Commission Assistant of the Maine Ethics Chamber, and,
Ladies and Gentlemen of this Eminent Chamber:

I'd like to testify in favor of House Joint Resolution #54, the "We The People" Amendment to our Federal Constitution.

In the early days of our American Revolutionary War, when our Nation's Founders and Forefathers dumped the tea of the East India Company into Boston Harbor, it is an under-appreciated fact that not only were they fighting the greatest military power of that time (namely, Great Britain), but they were also fighting the English-speaking world's first multinational corporation (the East India Company) -- *because our Nation's Founders and Forefathers didn't want foreigners and corporations meddling in our domestic political affairs.*

So it astonishes me to learn that today, our Congress permits a loophole in our Federal Constitution which allows foreigners and multinational corporations to drop "money bombs" on our domestic political process. I'm astounded that allowing this dirty, filthy money into our domestic political affairs would even be a matter for debate.

What a little, little People we've become.

I'm amazed that we aren't ashamed.

America was once a moral beacon in the world. The United States of America was once the greatest Republic -- the greatest Representative Democracy -- the world has ever known. But today, thanks to foreign and multinational corporate corrupting influences, America is rapidly becoming just a minor, petty province in some New World Order multinational corporate dictatorship. Thanks to foreign and multinational corporate corruption, we Americans now have the trappings, we have the appearance, but not the substance, not the reality, of a functioning Representative Democracy. If I didn't know better, I'd think our American government has become all but a criminal organization.

HJR 54, called the "We The People" Constitutional Amendment, would end corporate Constitutional rights (corporate "personhood") and it would end the Citizens United ("corporate and foreign money is free speech") Supreme Court ruling. In essence, this "We The People" Constitutional Amendment is an attempt to wrench our Federal Government from the wrestler's grip of foreign influence and multinational corporate corruption. It is an attempt

to give our American government back to the American People.

With this "We The People" Amendment, we have the chance to show the world that we Americans have the sanity, the intestinal fortitude, and the moral backbone to win our Government back for ourselves. We have the chance to show the world that we Americans are not -- repeat NOT -- the bootlickers of foreigners and the wage-slaves of giant New World Order multinational corporate robber barons. We can show the world that we Americans are the tools, toadies, lackeys, and lickspittles of *nobody*. We can show the world that we Americans are the proud citizens, stewards, and guardians of what once was -- and can be again -- the greatest Representative Democracy on Earth. We have the chance to show the world that we **ARE** who we **SAY** we are.

Ladies and gentlemen of this Eminent Chamber, I urge you -- **I beg you** -- to back HJR 54, this "We The People" Constitutional Amendment -- before foreign and multinational corporate money bombs transform this..."government"...into something our Nation's Founders and Forefathers would have fought *against*.

Thank you.

Steve Turner
United States Citizen, Voter, and Taxpayer
27 N. Main St.
Mechanic Falls, Maine 04256
207-312-7923

"Corporate interests have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow." -- Abraham Lincoln

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov
May 30th

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

My name is Colin Vettier, and I live in Portland Maine. I believe that clean election is the base of our democracy, and our constitution. This founding document starts with “We, The People” and not “We, The Wealthy” because it values each citizen opinion equally. I work as a Content Moderator, and I’ve had years to study disinformation and pouring money in election has a toxic impact on public discourse. Not a year ago, wealthy corporations who benefit from cheap labor poured money in the referendum on minimum wage, literally flooding the city with lies such as increasing minimum wage would disappear food delivery.

I’m submitting this testimony to express my support for a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of states and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending and shut the door on foreign interference in our elections.

Between 2020 and 2023, entities owned, influenced, or controlled by foreign governments spent more than \$100 million to influence Maine’s ballot initiatives. These weren’t donations from people who live and vote here. These were dollars from foreign corporations looking to shape our laws to serve their bottom line — and we had no legal mechanism to stop them.

And we already know (several times over in fact) that Mainers across party lines believe in clean elections:

Maine has twice armed its support for a constitutional amendment that would allow Americans to limit campaign contributions and undisclosed political spending – first in 2013 with a bipartisan resolution in the State Legislature and again in 2023 at the ballot box with a record breaking 86% support. The ballot measure passed in 2023 calls upon “each member of Maine’s Congressional Delegation to actively support and promote an effective anti-corruption amendment to the United States Constitution[.]”

Republicans and Democrats alike list reducing the influence of money in politics as a top policy priority for 2024, third only to strengthening the economy and defending against terrorism (see <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/02/29/americans-top-policy-priority-for-2024-strengthening-the-economy/>)

States are currently powerless to protect their elections from dark money and foreign interference. Maine should be able to ban foreign money in its own democratic processes, but we can't do that until we pass a constitutional amendment.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign

spending.

Sincerely,

Colin Vettier

colin.vettier@gmail.com

973-652-8033

From: kerry.walls@icloud.com
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 7:50:19 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director, State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

May 30, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Kerry Walls and I live on Peaks Island, Maine. I'm writing as a deeply concerned citizen who believes we have a growing national security crisis camouflaged as a campaign finance problem, as well as having billionaires having too much influence in our elections.

I support an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution to give Congress and the States the power to set reasonable limits on campaign spending and, more importantly, to stop foreign interference in our democratic process. According to data presented in a report by American Promise, foreign government-influenced entities spent more than \$100 million on Maine ballot initiatives between 2020 and 2023. In 2023 alone, they were responsible for 83% of all referendum spending in our state.

These are not Maine citizens voting to improve their own lives, but Maine citizens' votes being overwhelmed by foreign influences and companies with vested interest in their continued profits and influence. These are foreign governments — or companies they own or control — shaping our laws and policies through massive advertising and lobbying campaigns.

This is not hypothetical. It's already happened repeatedly in recent referendum campaigns. When foreign-controlled entities spend tens of millions to influence what happens at the ballot box in Maine, that's not democracy. That's foreign manipulation of American self-government.

What's even more disturbing is that despite our recent success in passing Question 2 — here--86% of Mainers voted to ban foreign political spending in our elections — our vote is being challenged in court. Why? Because a series of misguided U.S. Supreme Court decisions have left states powerless to defend themselves against this type of influence.

This is unacceptable.

This isn't about partisan politics. This is about sovereignty. This is about national security. This is about standing up and saying: "Only the people of Maine should decide what happens in Maine." The only viable path forward is a constitutional amendment. It's the only solution strong enough to override decades of legal precedent that currently protects foreign money under the guise of free speech.

We cannot wait for another election cycle. The threat is already here.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign to return to the true intent of our democracy and the constitution.

Respectfully,
Kerry Walls
41 New Island Ave.
Peaks Island, ME 04108

From: [Hilary Ware](#)
To: [Wayne, Jonathan](#)
Cc: [Hilary Ware](#)
Subject: proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that addresses the crisis of money in politics.
Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025 1:08:02 PM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
State of Maine
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0135

22 May 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Hilary Ware and I live in Norway, Maine. I'm writing as a lifelong voter, a community volunteer, and a deeply concerned citizen to express my support for a constitutional amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system.

I believe the American democratic system is at a crossroads — and that unchecked political spending is one of the greatest threats we face. Voters across the political spectrum are becoming increasingly disillusioned with our political system. The people of Maine are tired of being outspent, outshouted, and overshadowed by billionaires and dark money groups with no ties to our state.

The facts speak for themselves: in the 2020 U.S. Senate race here in Maine, more than \$200 million was spent, 93% of it from outside the state. In the 2022 midterms, dark money groups nationally spent \$615 million. By 2024, that figure exploded to \$1.9 billion. These groups aren't just pushing ads — they're pushing us out of our own democracy.

People across the political spectrum are sounding the alarm. According to American Promise's polling, 82.4% of voters believe that the influence of money is a threat to our

democracy, and 77.1%

support a constitutional amendment to fix it.

That's why I joined the 86% of Maine voters who supported Question 2 in 2023.

We sent a clear

message: it's time to restore the power of the people.

We need a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of Congress and the States to enact

commonsense, reasonable limits on political spending and protects our elections from dark money

and foreign interference.

I respectfully call on our Members of Congress to work to advance an anti-corruption amendment

to the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you.

From: [Eleanor Weisman](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Monday, June 16, 2025 7:06:15 AM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

16 June 2025

To the Honorable Members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

As a voter in Maine, I supported the 2023 Question 2 Protect Maine Elections that passed with great support. Now, in 2025 I urge you to support a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of states and Congress to set limits on campaign spending and address foreign interference in our elections.

It is essential for any democracy to limit spending on electoral politics. We must overturn the Citizens United ruling that unleashed outrageous spending by the wealthy billionaires, corporations, and outside influencers. This must change.

Thank you for working for Mainers,

Eleanor Weisman, Ph.D.
Belfast, ME

**June 20, 2025 Public Comment of Dianne Wilkins from Falmouth, ME
On the Maine Ethics Commission Annual Report regarding
Maine's Congressional Delegation's progress to Advance an Anti-corruption
Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**

Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices
135 State House Station August, Maine 04333-0135
Jonathan.Wayne@maine.gov

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Dianne Wilkins, I'm 68 yrs old and I live in Falmouth, Maine with my family. For decades I have witnessed the untethered, astronomical amount of undue influence by corporate and foreign campaign donations on the opinions, and subsequent actions, of our elected public officials in Congress that goes against voters' best interest in favor of these nonvoting foreign country and domestic corporations whose only interest is making more profits without any regard for its degradation of our constitutional rights, destruction of our water, land & air, or the needs of the citizens of our country. I'm submitting this testimony to express my **support** for a constitutional amendment that restores the ability of states and Congress to set stringent limits on corporate & foreign campaign spending regarding campaigns & elections.

I supported and volunteered to collect signatures for the 2023 "Protect Maine Election" ballot that passed with 86% support of Mainers which banned some foreign government spending in state elections and called on Congress to pass the For Our Freedom amendment to the Constitution. It also requires Maine's Congressional Delegation to actively support and promote an effective anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Between 2020 and 2023, entities owned or controlled by foreign governments spent more than \$100 million to influence Maine's ballot initiatives. Nationally, that dark money influence, aligned against the tax paying voter's interest, amounted to a record 1.9 Billion in 2024! These weren't donations from individual people who live and vote here in the USA and any profits gained by their undue influence went to benefit other countries' economies or to increase private corporation's profits. Congress knows these special interests fill most of their campaign coffers and mere votes with campaign promises are easily forgotten when facing a choice between pleasing voters or these donors.

You have the opportunity to help stop this dark money corruption and restore the election integrity of our voting system by asking our Congressional Delegation to stand with Maine voters and support an anti-corruption Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We need a U.S. Constitutional Amendment that will be strong enough to stand against decades this dark money influence's corruption of our laws and elections to protect our countries sovereignty and national security.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Wilkins, 9 Lakeside Drive, Falmouth ME (dianne.wilkins@maine.edu)

From: [Anne Winchester](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: Comments on Congressional Amendments
Date: Monday, June 2, 2025 10:05:02 AM

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Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director

State of Maine

Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

135 State House Station

August, Maine 04333-0135

May 23, 2025

Dear honorable members of The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

My name is Anne Winchester, and I am a resident of the Town of Bristol, Maine. I am in support of an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Several years ago, I volunteered to collect signatures for two attempts to get foreign money out of campaign funds (in Maine) on the ballot. It was not easy duty, as we collected signatures outdoors in bitter temperatures (and sometimes in snow) in the midst of the COVID pandemic. The hours put in were well worth it; the issue ultimately passed by a resounding 86% statewide vote in 2023.

This past year we witnessed billions of dollars being spent nationally to “buy” our elections, with a significant amount of that payload coming from anonymous donors. It doesn't take any imagination to suppose that foreign governments and huge corporate interests were behind a significant portion of it.

Locally, we are inundated with emails, urgent letters, television ads, and phone calls to send money not only to our own candidates but also to candidates all across the country. Winning elections has become an arms race for those who amass the biggest war chests. Incumbents running for re-election spend half their potential working time raising money when they could be putting that time to use for their constituents.

Even more appalling is the abuse of these war chests. They are heavily invested in nasty attacks on the opposition, repetitive manipulation/distortion of facts, and even brazen lies. Worse, this constant, and corrupt, pressure is carried out anonymously. We have no idea who or how much foreign or corporate money is behind these manipulative messages. Our democracy is suffering terribly from this abuse.

I respectfully ask our Congressional Delegation to listen to the 86% of Maine voters who have voted for a return to election integrity and a restoration of our confidence in democracy. Please support an anti-corruption amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow States and Congress to set reasonable limits on campaign spending. This is an urgent and vital matter for the sake of our future.

Thank you for all that you do for each of us, and thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Anne S. Winchester

Pemaquid (in the town of Bristol), Maine

From: [Douglas Yohman](#)
To: [Aube, Julie](#)
Subject: money in elections
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 3:49:32 PM

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Time was (before information/misinformation could be disseminated much faster than the speed of sound) a politician or a political issue had to be presented in a much more personal setting. This allowed for a real time response to the facts presented and an opportunity to correct them. If there was disagreement there was time to work things out.

I believe the Constitution provides the framework for every person's voice to be heard. Unfortunately, nowadays, voices can be much louder when money is involved. The public square has been reduced to communication which very often must be fact-checked after the fact. Obviously, freedom of speech can include truth or falsehood but the real hazard is how that falsehood can be amplified, unlike truth.

I sat outside J.D.'s Package Store in East Waterboro for three winters collecting petition signatures for No CMP Corridor (twice) and Protect Maine Elections (once). The hundreds of voters who signed knew what they were signing. Not so with the thousands who were bombarded with continuous advertisements which explained nothing compared to what I could and were paid for by vested interests which couldn't even win at the polls. One of these vested interests was Hydro-Quebec which spent \$25 million in a Maine election. Ironically, CMP spent much more as a subsidiary of a Spanish corporation. I'm sure millions of corporate dollars were spent on the legal appeals which subverted the will of Maine voters and let a 9 person jury decide instead of the electorate (on the corridor).

In any case, Hydro-Quebec, as an foreign entity, should have never been allowed to contribute to a Maine/U.S. election. To ignore this situation means the customer doesn't matter.