



**Written Testimony of Jason Snead**  
**Executive Director, Honest Elections Project Action**  
**Senate Bill 109—Proponent**  
**Louisiana Senate Governmental Affairs Committee**  
**April 23, 2025**

Chairman Kleinpeter, Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 109. My name is Jason Snead, executive director of Honest Elections Project Action, a nonprofit group fighting for the right of every American to vote in free and fair elections.

Senate Bill 109 is a constitutional amendment to ban foreign interference of candidate elections and ballot measures. In 2022, the people of Louisiana voted overwhelmingly in favor of an amendment to ban noncitizen voting in this state. SB 109 would offer voters the chance to take the next step by enshrining safeguards against foreign interference in Louisiana’s constitution.

States across the country are taking similar actions against foreign influence in our elections in response to alarming reports that foreign nationals are exploiting gaps in federal and state laws to effectively launder substantial sums of money into ballot measure campaigns. Federal law bars these same foreign nationals from financing candidate campaigns and PACs, but a loophole allows them to financially support campaigns to rewrite state constitutions or oppose measures like this one that are referred to the people by their legislature.

This year alone, Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, and Wyoming have enacted laws protecting the ballot measure process from foreign interference, while Tennessee lawmakers have sent a measure to the governor. Altogether, more than 15 states have introduced such bills. That includes House Bill 590 here in Louisiana which would adopt a statutory ban on foreign election financing.

Decisions as significant as electing leaders and amending the constitution belong exclusively in the hands of the citizens of this country and the voters of this state. Foreign nationals have no business influencing elections or ballot measures, and no campaign should be allowed to serve as a Trojan Horse for foreign interference in the American democratic process.

Yet, as we speak, one of the largest funders of ballot measure campaigns nationwide, a group called the Sixteen Thirty Fund, has taken \$280 million from a Swiss billionaire named Hansjorg Wyss.<sup>1</sup> This group has simultaneously spent \$130 million to influence the outcome of initiatives and legislatively referred measures in 26 states.<sup>2</sup> This single group has funded a range of measures designed to push a far-left agenda, from promoting abortion to rewriting election laws for partisan political gain, and has spent heavily to defeat measures referred to the voters by state legislatures.

---

<sup>1</sup> “Wyss’ nonprofit showered liberal groups with more than \$63M,” February 16, 2024, [Politico](#).

<sup>2</sup> “Swiss billionaire Hansjorg Wyss, 89, bankrolling US ‘working families’ group opposed to Trump tax cuts,” March 13, 2025, [New York Post](#). See also, [Americans for Public Trust](#).



The Sixteen Thirty Fund has proven it is alarmingly easy to exploit gaps in our laws and launder foreign money into ballot measure contests through intermediary groups. In fact, there is no reason to believe that Sixteen Thirty Fund is alone in this. Recent reporting has revealed that money tied to China is flowing into U.S. environmental nonprofits, a pattern of giving very similar to Wyss and the Sixteen Thirty Fund.<sup>3</sup>

It is time to act. Other states have witnessed the danger of delay. Last year, Ohio closed this foreign funding loophole, but not before the Sixteen Thirty Fund poured roughly \$20 million into the state. Prior to 2023, the Sixteen Thirty Fund had spent very little there. Then, the money flooded in.

The people of Louisiana deserve to know that all is being done to protect the bedrock of the democratic process from foreign interference. SB 109 would give them the chance to enshrine in the state's constitution—once and for all—that American elections are to be decided by American citizens and American voters.

---

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Catenacci and Joe Schoffstall, “CCP-tied group is quietly fueling US-based climate initiatives: tax filings,” [Fox News](#), 12/18/23. Thomas Catenacci, “Ex-CCP Officials Funneled Millions to US Universities, Nonprofits To Promote Green Energy, Tax Forms Show,” December 10, 2024, [Washington Free Beacon](#).