



Written Testimony of Jacqueline Doyer
Legal Policy Director, Honest Elections Project Action
AB906
Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections
January 28, 2026

Chair Maxey, Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Assembly Bill 906.

My name is Jacqueline Doyer, and I am the Legal Policy Director for Honest Elections Project Action, a nonprofit entity dedicated to defending the right of every American to vote in free and honest elections.

While it is already illegal for foreign nationals to finance campaigns for public office, it is not currently illegal at the state or federal level for a foreign national to spend on state ballot measure campaigns. This “foreign funding loophole” allows the same foreign billionaires forbidden from influencing candidate campaigns the freedom to spend millions on the campaigns targeting state constitutions. Recognizing this danger for what it is—foreign influence in American elections—in just the last two years nine states have banned foreign funding in state ballot measure campaigns. Wisconsin should be the tenth.

This is not a hypothetical concern. In states across the country, millions of dollars in foreign-tied funds have been spent to influence the outcome of state ballot measures and legislatively referred constitutional amendments. According to research by [Americans for Public Trust](#), a single left-wing group—the Sixteen Thirty Fund—has simultaneously received nearly \$300 million in donations from a Swiss billionaire named Hansjörg Wyss and spent \$130 million on state and local ballot measure campaigns in 26 states. Foreign money is being laundered into the political process at scale, influencing ballot measures and constitutional amendments that have decided every issue from abortion and minimum wage laws to the rules governing elections and redistricting.

While we have zeroed in on spending tied to Swiss billionaire Hansjörg Wyss, nothing is stopping hostile foreign powers like China or Russia from doing the same. Recent reporting has revealed that money tied to China is flowing into U.S. environmental nonprofits, a pattern of giving very similar to Wyss’s own giving to left-wing political groups like the Sixteen Thirty Fund.¹

Decisions as significant as 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 ballot measures, and these campaigns should not be allowed to serve as a Trojan Horse for foreign interference in the American democratic process.

¹ 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,” [Washington Free Beacon](#), 12/10/2024.



It is time to close the foreign funding loophole. Effective legislation banning foreign funding will address a few key areas, without violating donor privacy and while upholding the free speech rights of American citizens.

First, states must ban both direct *and indirect* foreign contributions to these campaigns. Further, a ban should be designed to prevent groups from laundering large sums of foreign money into campaigns by accepting and using foreign donations for other purposes that free up resources for ballot measure contributions. A clear way to accomplish this is to require donors to certify they have not received more than a specified amount of foreign funding over a time period prior to the contribution (such as \$100,000 over a four-year period).

Second, these same protections should be applied to independent expenditures and sponsoring organizations, to avoid shifting foreign spending to that domain.

Third, the ban must apply to foreign nationals. It is not enough to target foreign governments or political parties alone. Foreign meddling is toxic no matter whether it originates from the Chinese government or from a foreign activist like Hansjörg Wyss.

Assembly Bill 906 would make great strides towards safeguarding the integrity of Wisconsin's elections. I applaud your efforts on this important matter and protect Wisconsin elections from foreign influence.

Thank you for considering this testimony, and I welcome any questions you may have.