



MEDIA ADVISORY

10/4/2023

Contact:

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Who's Spending Big in the Referendum Election?

WHAT: Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) invites the press and media to a **press conference** that will highlight the major takeaways from campaign finance reports for the November 2023 referendum election. Committees — including Political Action Committees (PACs), Ballot question committees (BQC), and State Party Committees — must submit their quarterly reports by October 5, and data will be available shortly after.

Ballot question committees (BQC), if they do not meet the definitions of a Political Action Committee, are created to influence the outcome of a ballot question in a statewide election. If the BQC receives more than \$5,000 in contributions, then the organization must register and file campaign finance reports with the [Ethics Commission](#).

It is expected that millions of dollars have been spent in this referendum election.

WHEN: Friday, October 6, 2023

1:00 - 2:00 PM

WHERE: [Equality Community Center](#)

15 Casco St

Portland, ME 04101

WHY: MCCE [endorses Question 2](#) and sees it as one way to limit political spending. Question 2 closes a loophole and will prohibit donations and disbursements by foreign governments, foreign government-owned entities, and foreign government-influenced entities in ballot measures and candidate campaigns. In 2021, over \$20 million was spent in Maine elections by foreign owned entities alone.

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[Maine Citizens for Clean Elections](#) (MCCE) is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working to ensure that Maine's campaign finance laws, elections, and government serve the public interest, both in principle and in practice. We engage Maine people from across the political spectrum, using research, education, and outreach to further fairness, inclusion, and opportunity in our politics.