

June 8th, 2023



Declaration for American Democracy and Public Citizen

presentation to the Michigan House Ethics and Oversight Committee



Talyce Murray (she/her/hers)

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Democracy Campaign Field Organizer,
Public Citizen



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Michigan Organizer, Public Citizen

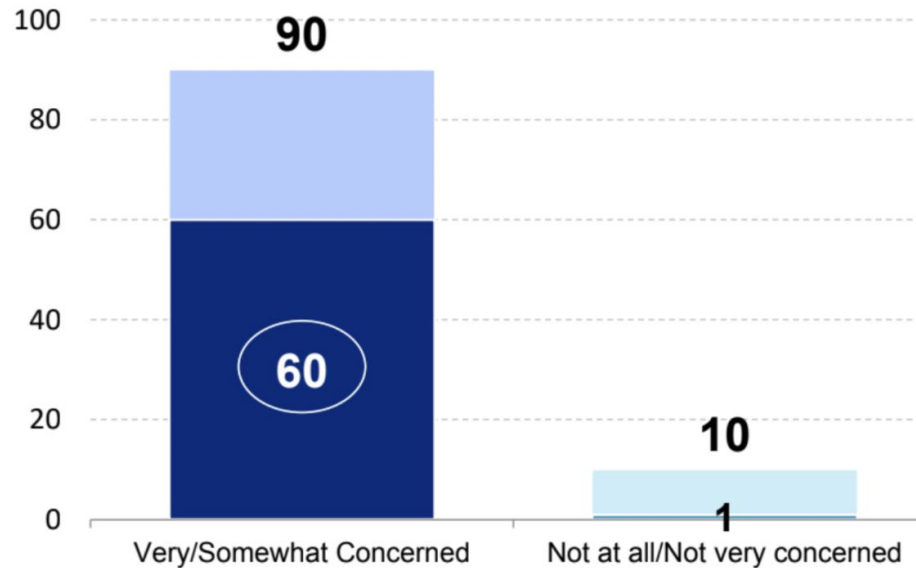
How concerned are you about corruption in politics and elections?

■ Very concerned

■ Somewhat concerned

■ Not at all concerned

■ Not very concerned



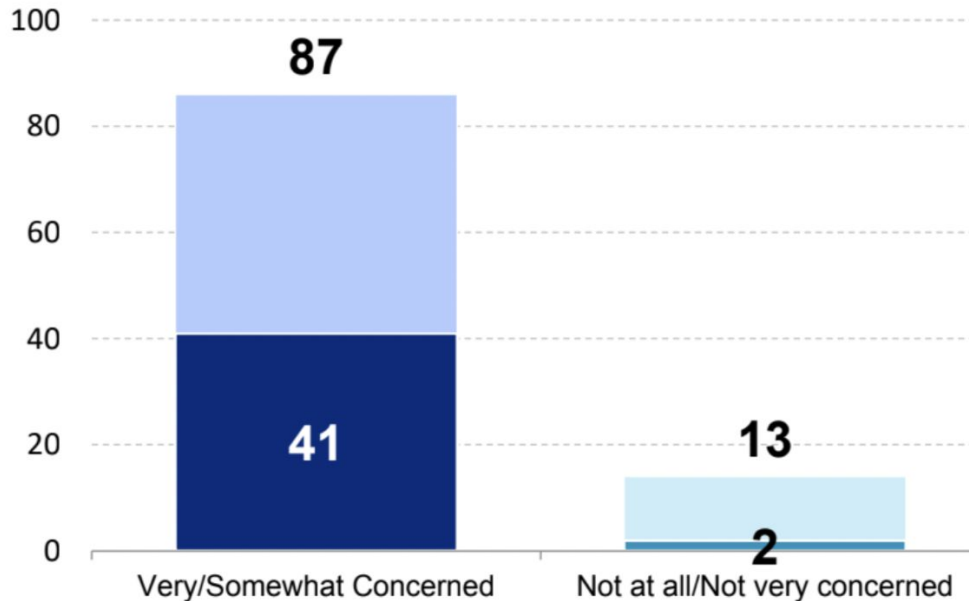
How concerned would you say you are about the influence of corporate and ultra-wealthy donors on (STATE) politics?

■ Very concerned

■ Somewhat concerned

■ Not at all concerned

■ Not very concerned



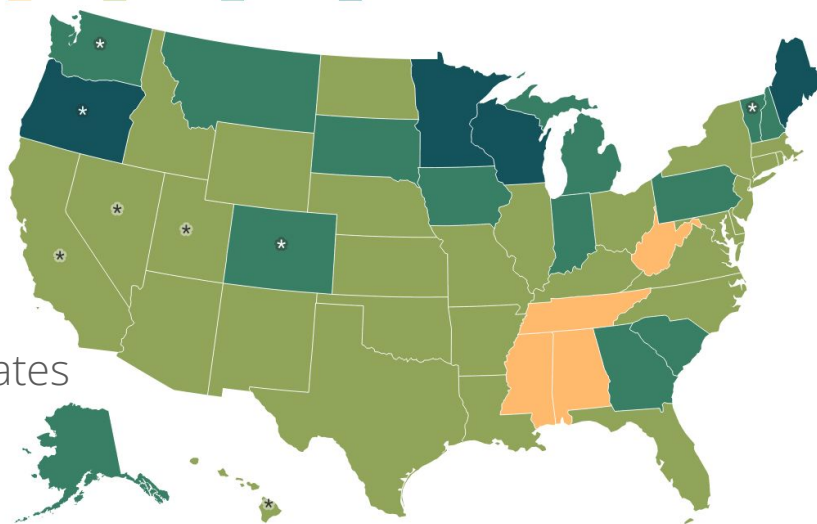
2022

Michigan ranked 9th in the nation for **most PAC donations**

While only ranking 16th in the nation for most individual donations

Voter turnout rates by state, 2022

 < 40% 40 - 50% 50 - 60% > 60%



* State mails ballots to voters automatically.

MI voters turned out at the same rates or better than most of the nation

2018

Gubernatorial election is the first time *secret money* outspent donations of regular voters

PACs, corporations, and 527 accounts outspent voters at a **2 to 1 ratio**

2020

9 MI House seats = over \$13 million

Candidate raising the most money in 107 out of 110 seats won

Campaign Finance Reform

Bill Recommendations

Original Source
Disclosure

Increase
Transparency

Small Donor
Matching

Original Source Disclosure

Key provisions:

- Any entity acting as a conduit for large campaign contributions must disclose the true or original source and recipients of those contributions.
- An Initial report and subsequent reports containing the disclosure of the true source and recipient shall be filed with the appropriate government authority

This *does not* change to how candidates are allowed to receive their funds, rather provide transparency to the public

Original Source Disclosure

Key provisions include:

- Any entity acting as a conduit for large campaign contributions (e.g. PACs, Corporations, etc) must disclose the true sources and recipients of those contributions
- An Initial report and subsequent reports containing the disclosure of the true source and recipient shall be filed with the appropriate government authority
- Ads run by super PACs or corporations must name the spender's top 3 donors

Arizona overwhelmingly passes model campaign financial sources disclosure referendum in 2022

With **72.34%** voting in favor



Transparency for Digital Campaign Ads

Key provisions:

- Update the definition of an election ad to include all mediums
- Ensure digital campaign ads, with sponsors clearly identified, are available in an online archive

Small Donor Matching

It is not a partisan issue. Legislation has passed in places like Florida and Maryland.

Oakland, Seattle, and NYC have passed voucher and matching programs that have been successful over the last few years.

Until the late 1990's, most jurisdictions matched private contributions at a rate of 1-to-1, or at most 2-to-1. More recently, however, jurisdictions are opting for larger match rates. For example, New York City now matches private contributions 8-to-1 so that all New Yorkers can participate meaningfully in the campaign process.

Our Commitment



Resources include, but not limited to:

- Research & policy support
- Public educational forums
- Mobilize our coalition of 260+ national and state partners to engage with Michiganders