



## **Corporation-Backed Ballot Initiative Campaigns Spent More than \$335 Million, Won 62% of Races Where One Side Was Mostly Funded by Corporate Interests**

November 9, 2016 – Out of 37 ballot initiative races in 17 states where at least one side was mostly funded by corporations and business interests, the corporation-backed side was victorious in 23 (62%).

In races where the corporation-backed side faced opposition, the corporation-backed side outspent that opposition by an average of 33-to-1.

The campaign that attracted the largest amount of corporate money was the pharmaceutical industry-backed effort against Proposition 61 in California (which sought to lower prescription drug prices). That campaign raised more than \$109 million from the industry, outspending its nonprofit opposition 5-to-1. Not counting campaigns where corporate interests backed ballot initiatives unopposed, the greatest disparity between a corporate-backed campaign and a non-corporate opposition was in Massachusetts, where casino interests amassed a war chest to support Question 1 (authorizing a new gambling facility expansion) 480 times greater than their opponents, but ultimately were defeated.

**Table: Ballot Initiatives Where at Least One Side Was Mostly Corporate-Funded**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Corporations: Support or Oppose Initiative?</b>	<b>Corporate Side Money</b>	<b>The Other Side's Money</b>	<b>Disparity</b>	<b>Initiative Outcome</b>	<b>Corporate Win or Loss</b>
Lengthen term limits for certain county officials	Issue 1	AR	Support	\$23,425	\$0	0	Approved	Win
Removes limit on amount of state-issued bonds	Issue 3	AR	Both	\$351,460	\$29,000	12.12	Approved	Win
Legalize medical marijuana	Issue 6	AR	Support	\$787,978	\$207,436	3.8	Approved	Win
Legalize marijuana	Proposition 205	AZ	Oppose	\$5,605,735	\$5,237,084	1.07	Defeated	Win
Increase minimum wage	Proposition 206	AZ	Oppose	\$46,677	\$4,197,691	0.01	Approved	Loss



and paid time off								
Increase the cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack	Proposition 56	CA	Oppose	\$71,261,220	\$34,150,768	2.09	Approved	Loss
Require condom use in pornographic films	Proposition 60	CA	Oppose	\$532,288	\$4,997,809	0.11	Defeated*	Win
Reforms to lower prescription drug prices	Proposition 61	CA	Oppose	\$109,033,855	\$19,019,701	5.73	Defeated*	Win
Disposable bag sales funds to wildlife preservation	Proposition 65	CA	Support	\$6,144,383	\$0	0	Defeated*	Loss
Repeal the ban on plastic grocery bags	Proposition 67	CA	Support	\$6,144,383	\$2,030,768	3.03	Approved*	Loss
Create a state health care system	Amendment 69	CO	Oppose	\$4,067,563	\$891,558	4.56	Defeated	Win
Increase minimum wage to \$12	Amendment 70	CO	Oppose	\$1,722,559	\$4,944,832	0.35	Approved	Loss
"Raise the Bar" - New restrictions on ballot initiative initiation	Amendment 71	CO	Support	\$5,119,825	\$942,944	5.43	Approved	Win
Increase tax on cigarettes by \$1.75 per pack of 20	Amendment 72	CO	Oppose	\$17,447,554	\$2,383,963	7.32	Defeated	Win
Let utilities impose rooftop solar restrictions	Amendment 1	FL	Support	\$26,118,915	\$2,385,691	10.95	Defeated	Loss
Authorize a second slots location	Question 1	MA	Support	\$2,497,647	\$5,200	480.32	Defeated	Loss
Establishes a 3 percent tax on household income over \$200,000	Question 2	ME	Oppose	\$286,717	\$3,946,985	0.07	Tossup*	Tossup*
Increase minimum wage to \$12 per hour by 2020	Question 4	ME	Oppose	\$100,625	\$1,820,462	0.06	Approved	Loss
Raise cigarette tax by 60	Amendment 3	MO	Both	\$3,051,052	\$5,606,795	0.54	Defeated	Win



cents								
Prohibit new state sales or use taxes	Amendment 4	MO	Support	\$5,060,485	\$0	0	Approved	Win
Raise cigarette tax by 23 cents	Proposition A	MO	Both	\$5,697,717	\$3,051,052	1.87	Defeated	Win
Legalize medical marijuana	I-182	MT	Support	\$125,104	\$206,944	0.6	Approved*	Win
Increase the tax on tobacco products	Measure 4	ND	Oppose	\$3,631,936	\$21,691	167.44	Defeated	Win
Allow Casinos in Two Additional Cities	Public Question 1	NJ	Both	\$9,498,545	\$13,697,000	0.69	Defeated	Win
Deregulate the energy market	Question 3	NV	Support	\$3,435,000	\$910,000	3.77	Approved	Win
Exempt medical equipment from sales tax	Question 4	NV	Support	\$388,226	\$0	0	Approved	Win
Add a "right to farm" to the state constitution	SQ 777	OK	Support	\$1,414,746	\$958,683	1.48	Defeated	Loss
Let grocery and convenience stores sell full-strength beer and wine	SQ 792	OK	Both	\$2,013,042	\$10,536	191.06	Defeated	Win
Increase taxes on businesses	Measure 97	OR	Oppose	\$26,033,401	\$15,916,965	1.64	Defeated	Win
Allow construction of a new casino	Question 1	RI	Support	\$4,479,139	\$0	0	Approved	Win
Change postsecondary technical education governance	Amendment R	SD	Support	\$458,611	\$0	0	Approved*	Win
Allows no limit on interest rates for payday lenders if in writing	Amendment U	SD	Support	\$1,879,622	\$17,467	107.61	Defeated	Loss
Limit payday lending	Measure 21	SD	Oppose	\$1,262,214	\$70,746	17.84	Approved	Loss



interest rates								
Strengthen campaign finance and lobbying laws	Measure 22	SD	Oppose	\$645,866	\$617,487	1.05	Approved	Loss
Increase minimum wage	Initiative 1433	WA	Oppose	\$85,285	\$5,528,915	0.02	Approved	Loss
Strengthen campaign finance laws	Initiative 1464	WA	Oppose	\$28,272	\$4,027,107	0.01	Defeated*	Win
Tax carbon emissions	Initiative 732	WA	Oppose	\$1,408,042	\$2,797,875	0.5	Defeated	Win

Data Source: Ballotpedia.org tallies of campaign contributions supplemented with publicly available state disclosures and Associated Press election results.

\*Not yet called by the Associated Press but projected based on available vote counts.