
AMERICANS FOR
**PUBLIC
TRUST**

**Sixteen Thirty Fund
Spending on State Ballot
Issue Campaigns**

How Foreign-Backed Money Has Been
Used to Enact Liberal Policies

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Foreign Influence Loophole In State Ballot Issue Campaigns

Federal law prohibits foreign nationals from contributing to candidates and Super PACs, but there is no federal prohibition against foreign nationals funding ballot issue campaigns. While some states restrict foreign funding of ballot initiatives, these laws are not widespread and more can be done to strengthen their effectiveness. Without closing this foreign influence loophole, states are leaving their public policy open to being influenced by foreign interests.



Because of this foreign influence loophole, the Sixteen Thirty Fund, a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) managed by Arabella Advisors, simultaneously counts one of their top donors as a foreign national *and* bankrolls ballot issue campaigns across the county.

A reclusive Swiss billionaire by the name of Hansjörg Wyss is one of Sixteen Thirty Fund's top donors. Since their inception, Mr. Wyss has contributed at least \$280 million to the left's top outside group. Sixteen Thirty Fund then takes advantage of this loophole and has spent \$130 million on ballot issue campaigns in 26 states. It is also important to note that as Mr. Wyss' foreign money runs through the Sixteen Thirty Fund, there is nothing stopping foreign adversaries from taking advantage of this same loophole.



Sixteen Thirty Fund State-By-State Spending

Since 2014, the Sixteen Thirty Fund has spent \$130 million bankrolling ballot issues in 26 states. State ballot issue campaigns, while an important part of the democratic process, also allow citizens to sidestep the legislative process and place important policy issues directly on the ballot, while also driving voter turnout to impact concurrent, contested elections. Sixteen Thirty Fund has used this foreign-backed money to influence state and local policy on a variety of issues, including abortion, electoral reforms, minimum wage, paid sick leave, and taxes.

Sixteen Thirty Fund State-By-State Spending: \$130 Million

