



From Worst to First

Legislative Agenda for Government Transparency

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's legislative agenda seeks to move Michigan From Worst to First in government transparency. It would do the following:

Demand Transparency

- Extend the Freedom of Information Act to the governor and state legislature.
- Require personal financial disclosures from elected officials so that voters are aware of the assets they may have and could enrich legislatively.
- Require more frequent campaign disclosure than the current quarterly requirement. With the provision of funding, the Bureau of Elections could track and publish disclosures in real time.

Shine the Light on Dark Money

- Shine light where dark money comes from by requiring all PACs, Super PACs and 527 committees to report, and close the administrative account loophole by applying reporting requirements for all receipts and disbursements.
- Shine light where dark money is spent by ending the "Express Advocacy" reporting exception with a threshold definition for electioneering in the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.
- Tighten LLC reporting requirements to ensure secret and foreign money do not corrupt our elections. Assess LLC contributions equally to each officer's limit, and disclose their names.

Stop Corruption

- Ban foreign money in Michigan elections, as state law only bars it from super PACs.
- Require a 2-year period between leaving elected office and working as a lobbyist.
- Require former legislators who are doing "legislative consulting" to register and report as lobbyists.
- Eliminate the potential for quid-pro-quo corruption and "pay to play" by banning companies (and associated individuals with a controlling interest) that receive state grants or contracts from making political contributions.
- Enforce the Conflict of Interest Act to identify legislative conflicts of interest.

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