

The DISCLOSE Act of 2026

Since the 2010 *Citizens United* decision, secret spending from outside groups in our elections has exploded. These dark-money expenditures that corrupt our politics increased from less than \$5 million in 2006 to more than \$300 million in the 2012 election cycle, and topped \$1.9 billion in 2024.¹ The DISCLOSE Act of 2026 would restore transparency and accountability to our political system.

Summary:

Strengthening the Foreign Money Ban

- Strengthens prohibitions against foreign actors participating in election spending in the United States, including in state and local referenda.
- Prohibits the establishment of corporations to conceal election contributions and donations by foreign actors.

Dark-Money Disclosure

- Requires super PACs, 501(c) “dark money” groups, corporations, and other organizations spending more than \$10,000 in elections and on judicial nominations to promptly disclose donors who contribute more than \$10,000.
- Shuts down the use of transfers between organizations to cloak the identity of the source contributor.
- Allows organizations to establish a segregated fund from which to pay for election spending, in which case only donors to the fund would need to be disclosed.

Stand By Every Ad

- Expands “stand by your ad” disclosure requirements to online ads and ads that may promote or attack a candidate but stop short of expressly advocating for a vote for or against a candidate.
- Requires identification of top funders of outside groups paying for video, text, or audio political ads.

¹ Tim Lau, *Citizens United Explained: The 2010 Supreme Court decision further tilted political influence toward wealthy donors and corporations*, Brennan Center (Dec. 12, 2019), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/citizens-united-explained>; Anna Massoglia, *Dark Money Hit a Record High of \$1.9 Billion in 2024 Federal Races*, Brennan Center (May 7, 2025), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/dark-money-hit-record-high-19-billion-2024-federal-races>.