MICHIGAN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

What to know about Proposal 2 on the ballot in Michigan

The statewide general election this November 3 will ask voters to decide on Proposal 2, which would initiate new legislation related to political contribution regulations. The MCC Board of Directors has not taken a position on this proposal. To help inform Catholics, MCC is providing this handout with basic details on the proposal.

Proposal 2 would initiate a new law that would:

- Prohibit regulated electric and gas utilities, as well as companies with large state government contracts, from making campaign contributions to elected officials or candidates running for office. The prohibition also would include people and organizations with substantial connections to those companies.

- Require the disclosure of donors to political communications that clearly identify a candidate or ballot question, even if the communication does not expressly advocate a vote for or against the candidate or issue.

- Require disclosure of who paid for political communications to expressly include internet political communications.

Why is Proposal 2 on the ballot?

A group known as Michiganders for Money Out of Politics collected petition signatures from Michigan residents to support the proposal. The state determined that enough qualified voters signed the petition, allowing it to move to the Legislature, which could either adopt it or send it to the ballot. The state House voted to adopt the proposal, but the Senate did not, sending the proposal to a vote of the people this November.

What do supporters say about Proposal 2?

The proposal is needed to limit the political influence that large companies—including DTE Energy, Consumers Energy, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan—have on public officials through their campaign contributions. The proposal will also require groups that reference a candidate or ballot issue in political ads to report their spending totals and donors to the state. Groups backing the proposal include Clean Water Action, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, and Michigan United Action.

What do opponents say about Proposal 2?

The proposal would restrict political giving and is an attack on First Amendment-protected free speech. Previous court decisions have upheld political giving as a form of free speech, including if the contributor is a business. Opponents also point out the proposal targets only the business community, and not labor unions, which also donate to political candidates. Groups such as the Michigan Chamber of Commerce are opposed to the proposal, as are individual companies such as DTE Energy, Consumers Energy, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

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What voters will see on the ballot:

Proposal 2026-2

A proposed initiated law to prohibit campaign contributions from certain regulated utilities and government contractors and apply campaign finance laws and regulations to additional types of political communications

The proposal would:

- Prohibit regulated electric and gas utilities, contractors with over $250,000 annually in government contracts, and people and organizations with substantial connections to these utilities/contractors from making direct or indirect campaign contributions to those who run for or hold offices that impact them.
- Expand laws regulating spending on political communications, including those requiring disclosing donor information, to apply to communications clearly identifying candidates or ballot questions, even if they do not expressly advocate voting for/against them.
- Expressly apply the law requiring disclosure of who paid for political communications to internet political communications.

Should this proposal be adopted?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Michigan Catholic Conference does not have a position on Proposal 2. However, the organization encourages Catholic voters to take time to study the pros and cons of the initiative and vote yes or no based on their individual conscience.

For a printable PDF of this document, scan the QR code or visit cthl.cc/2026p2.

For more resources related to faithful citizenship and to prayerfully prepare for the statewide November election, scan the QR code or visit micatholic.org/electionresources.