

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Rep. McCarthy Vahey Applauds Advancement of Bills Targeting “Dark Money,” Increasing Transparency

Legislation increasing government transparency passed by committee

State Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey (D-Fairfield) applauded the recent committee passage of two bills to reduce the influence of special interest “dark money” in elections and bring greater transparency to the electoral process.

Rep. McCarthy Vahey sits on the Government Administration and Elections Committee, which passed both bills on a 9-8 vote earlier this week.

“As a member of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I believe in creating greater transparency within our electoral process. These bills help to provide voters with increased confidence in the integrity of our elections,” **Rep. McCarthy Vahey** said. “People are concerned that the power of their vote has been compromised by corporations and special interest groups meddling in our state elections. Voters deserve more information about the electoral races that impact them, and these bills will shine a light on outside donors and financial conflicts of interest.”

Rep. McCarthy Vahey participated in a House leadership press conference prior to the bills’ passage, where lawmakers called for full disclosure of who is backing the anonymous bundled campaign money known as “independent expenditures” popularized under the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the 2010 Citizens United case, so voters will know exactly who is behind such funding.

[HB 5589](#) requires corporate political expenditures to be approved by their board of directors and disclosed to shareholders. The legislation would also limit contributions to organizations making independent expenditures to an aggregate of \$70,000 in a calendar year. In addition, foreign-influenced entities would be barred from making independent expenditures or contributing to an organization that does.

[HB 6575](#) requires that presidential and vice presidential candidates publicly disclose their federal tax returns for the preceding three years in order to appear on the ballot in Connecticut.

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