



M U L T I S T A T E

[Expert expects Michigan will break campaign spending records on state races in 2022 election](#) (Michigan)

2022 is shaping up to be a very expensive election year in Michigan.

Campaign spending goes in waves, with presidential election years usually being the highest crest. But there are indications that next year's elections could be record breaking.

Simon Schuster is the executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, a watchdog that closely follows election spending.

In 2018, \$93.4 million was spent on Michigan's governor's race. But Schuster says Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer has already built a substantial campaign war chest and a diverse array of Republican challenges could also raise a substantial sum.

And Schuster says Republicans and Democrats will be motivated to spend even more.

"Because the common interest that they all share, above anything else, is winning elections," said Schuster, "(With) what's at stake, we always see a lot of money being poured in. Especially in a post-Citizens United era, where outside spending is so much more important."

Schuster expects dark money groups will again spend heavily in Michigan's election in 2022, and not just in the major statewide races.

He is particularly interested in seeing how redistricting state House seats to make them more competitive will effect campaign spending.

In 2020, money spent on Michigan's state House elections grew more than 40%. But the money was not evenly spread among the 110 seats.

Two years ago, the ten most competitive state house races in Michigan attracted more money than the other hundred seats up for election combined.

Schuster says redistricting may change that.

“Can we see...a greater dispersion of that money?...Is there going to be less concentration of that money around a just few small places?” Schuster wondered.

Schuster said the average expense of an individual state House election may go up.

[Campaign Donation Limits Could Be Coming to OR in 2022](#) (Oregon)

Oregon is among a handful of states without limits on how much people or entities can contribute to election campaigns, but it could change this year.

So far, six proposals have been introduced.

Jason Kafoury, organizer for [Honest Elections Oregon](#), which is behind three of the potential ballot measures limiting campaign finance donations, said money is set to play a big role in the 2022 election, illustrating the need for reining in its influence.

"That's what's led millionaires and billionaires to give six-, seven-figure checks to candidates here -- with huge amounts of money going into our governor's race -- to have on the ballot opportunity for Oregon voters to say, 'No, we want to limit what people can give to politicians,' " Kafoury explained.

In 2020, Oregon voters passed a [constitutional amendment](#) allowing campaign finance limits.

Groups supporting finance limits tried to work out a single measure to support last year but ran out of time as the need to start collecting signatures approached. Some of Oregon's largest unions are concerned penalties in the first three measures are too strict.

Kafoury pointed out his group is using polling to determine which of the three measures they have introduced is most popular. All the proposals contain financing limits and donor-disclosure requirements for certain dark-money campaigns. He noted one of the measures also includes an incentive for candidates to take only small donations from the public.

"And then the third piece is a public-funding, a small-donor matching program which allows smaller candidates to raise low-dollar contributions and have them matched by taxpayer dollars to be able to run effective campaigns," Kafoury added.

To qualify for the ballot in November, the measures must submit about 112,000 signatures by July 8, which could be challenging during a pandemic.

[Coalition calls for campaign finance reform in Virginia](#) (Virginia)

Groups calling for campaign finance reform in Virginia have released a new survey that shows widespread support for proposed legislation.

The poll was commissioned by the group Money Out Virginia, and conducted by the Wason Center at Christopher Newport University.

78% of the people who responded said they support limiting money from large campaign donors. And 88% said they support public disclosure of contributions.

Heidi Drauschak is the Executive Director of the group VaOurWay.

"And so I think these polling results really showed that this is not only an important issue, but it's a priority for Virginians," Drauschak said during a news conference Tuesday morning. "And we're not going to be okay with it being shelved yet again."

The groups support legislation that would strengthen disclosure requirements, limit contributions, enhance oversight by the State Board of Elections and restrict the personal use of campaign funds.

[Prominent lawyer involved in another incident involving weapon at his home on Christmas Eve](#) (Louisiana)

A [Gwen's Law](#) hearing held Tuesday for well-connected Baton Rouge lawyer Kevin Hayes, who was booked for domestic violence on New Year's Eve, revealed that a weapon was involved during another domestic incident on Christmas Eve, but law enforcement was never called.

Things escalated five days later when investigators said Hayes put his hands on a woman and attacked her son. Hayes has remained locked up in the East Baton Rouge Parish jail since New Year's Eve.

The WBRZ Investigative Unit has been [following this case](#) closely since Friday, when a bond was set by Commissioner Nicole Robinson even though the District Attorney's Office requested a Gwen's Law hearing. Robinson agreed to the stipulations that the District Attorney's Office wanted, but there was a shift change with the judges who were on duty.

When Judge William Jorden took over, he kept Hayes locked up. At a hearing Tuesday, Hayes agreed to abide by a number of different conditions as Judge Jorden formally set the bond, which Hayes was expected to post.

Hayes was ordered to remove nine of his guns. Court records show he has a collection of rifles, shotguns, and handguns. Those guns will have to be turned over to the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office.

Hayes' history of violence began in 2012, based on what sources told WBRZ. An incident at the Country Club of Louisiana involved a patron having to disarm him at the clubhouse. Hayes eventually went back to his house where deputies had to coax him out using a loud speaker. No court record exists on this case.

In 2020, he was arrested again in Walton County, Florida after sources said he pulled a relative by the hair down a flight of stairs. He was not prosecuted in that case.

Judge Jorden took a strong position in this case, and said if any of the bond obligations are violated, Hayes' bond would be revoked and he would be locked up until his trial.

His bond is \$10,000 for the two domestic violence charges he faces.

In addition to removing the guns, a protective order was put into place to protect the victim. Hayes must undergo ankle-monitored supervision and submit to sobriety tests.