

**Resolution 2022-4 in Support of AB 1819: The Stop Foreign Influence in California
Elections Act**

Adopted March 17, 2022

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled (*Citizens United v FEC, 2010*) that U.S. corporations can spend unlimited amounts of money from their corporate treasuries on elections, expanding the already outsized role that corporate money plays in the outcomes of California's elections and ballot initiatives; and

WHEREAS, while the majority of U.S. businesses have no foreign owners, the largest U.S.-based corporations have appreciable foreign ownership, with foreign investors now owning approximately 40 percent of U.S. corporate equity, compared with just 4 percent of U.S. equity in 1986, and these corporations spend millions and millions of dollars to influence election outcomes, but the California Political Reform Act of 1974 prohibits a foreign government or foreign principal from contributing in support or opposition to state or local elections or ballot measures, also prohibiting a person or committee from soliciting or accepting such contributions; and

WHEREAS, AB 1819 will expand and strengthen the prohibitions of the Political Reform Act to include contributions, expenditures, or independent expenditures made by a foreign-influenced business entity in connection with an election or ballot measure, defining these entities as businesses where: a) a single foreign principal owns or has indirect ownership of one percent or more of the company, or b) two or more foreign principals, in aggregate, own or have indirect ownership of five percent of the company, or c) a foreign principal contributes to the decision-making process to make a contribution regarding a ballot measure or election, and requiring businesses to certify that they are not a foreign-influenced business entity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee, at this time of grave concern about foreign interference in U.S. elections, endorses AB 1819, which positions California at the forefront of legislative efforts across the country to stop political spending by foreign-influenced American corporations; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee calls upon Senator Josh Becker, Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, Assemblymember Marc Berman, and Assemblymember Phil Ting to protect our democratic right to self-government by supporting AB 1819.

Submitted by

Diana Reddy
Ashleigh Evans