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## Follow-ups for policy reform ideas

1 message

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Hi Amy—

Thanks again for letting me join the group's meeting this afternoon – it was great to hear your thoughts on these reforms and hearing questions and ideas from the others. I'm following up on two pieces – highlighting digital ad archives from other jurisdictions and addressing spending by foreign-influenced corporations.

First, we advocate for digital ad archives as part of our broader push for digital ad regulation: [Digital Ad Disclosure](#). There are three ad archives to highlight in Los Angeles, New York City, and New York State. Admittedly, they are not all intuitive, so it does take a little poking around to get a sense of how they work. We advocate for such archives particularly for digital ads – those are generally the ads most susceptible to flying under the radar and for which it's crucial to ensure the ads comply with disclosure laws – and the NYC and LA archives include additional advertising formats.

1. **Los Angeles:** <https://ethics.lacity.org/data/campaigns/independent-expenditures/>. If you simply do a blank search (click the yellow “Search” button in the middle of the page), the site will bring up all independent spending that has been submitted to the public archive. From there, you can see a variety of information, including the group doing the spending, how much was spent, and (to the left) the actual ad that was submitted to the archive and the independent expenditure reports. And then just so you have the right information, it appears the archive was included in a slate of campaign finance reforms made by the LA City Council in 2014: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=12-1269-S2>. If you want to dig into the ordinance, it is here: Los Angeles Municipal Code § 49.7.31.
2. **New York City:** <https://www.nycfb.info/FTMSearch/IndependentSpenders/Expenditures?ec=2021&viewMode=visual>. That link will take you to the latest filings for the 2021 election cycle in NYC – they don't have candidate elections this year, so everything is about a year old. This has a somewhat different layout than LA's repository, but you can still get the same information (and tailor your searches, as well).

3. **New York State:** <https://pida.elections.ny.gov/web/IECommitteeInfo/IECommitteeInfo/>. This is the most recent archive that has been implemented, and I do think it is still a work in progress in terms of usability, but the information is there, organized by Independent Expenditure Committee. You can see each committee's registration, and then if you scroll down or sort by the "communication" column, it will bring up "political communications" in that column that you can then explore further for spending information and the specific ads.

Second, barring foreign-influenced corporations from spending in elections is part of our broader reform geared towards stopping foreign interference in elections:

[Combatting Foreign Interference](#). Foreign-influenced corporations are particularly important to regulate because they are a way to evade current bans on spending by foreign nationals at both the federal and state level. It was great to hear John Palmer is involved in the effort with Protect Maine Elections – prior to the current ballot measure effort, I had worked with a Maine group, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections/League of Women Voters – Maine, on a foreign interference bill based on CLC's policy recommendations. The bill more broadly addressed foreign interference in the Maine, but a crucial part of the reform was restricting spending by foreign-influenced corporations owned 5% or more by an individual foreign national or 20% or more by a group of foreign nationals. You can see our testimony in favor of the bill at [this link](#) (foreign-influenced corporations are described on pages 4-5). In addition, the Center for American Progress published a report a few years back that details some of the instances of foreign interference in state and local elections – available at [this link](#). I know Richmond, CA isn't exactly a close neighbor with San Diego, but that city is included as an example where spending by Chevron, a corporation with foreign ownership, spent heavily in local elections.

My apologies if this is a bit more than you asked for! As I mentioned during the meeting today, if the group is interested in talking through the policy ideas more or figuring out the feasibility of implementing these in San Diego, we're more than happy to get on another call.

Feel free to let me know if you have any issues with the links or additional ideas or questions. I hope you have a great rest of your Friday!

Cheers—Aaron