

**The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Of America (PhRMA) Contributed Nearly \$30,000 To Right-Wing Groups In Michigan Which Used Illegal Dark Money To Fight Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s Public Health Measures.**

**Between 2019 And 2021 PhRMA Gave \$29,500 To Michigan! My Michigan! A Dark Money Group That Helped Fund Unlock Michigan—An Effort To Limit Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s Emergency Powers.**

**PhRMA Gave Money To Michigan! My Michigan! A Dark Money Group That Helped Fund The Unlock Michigan Petition Drive, Aimed At Limiting Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Emergency Powers.**

Between 2019 And 2021, PhRMA Gave Michigan My Michigan! \$29,500:

Contributor	Recipient	Year	Amount
PhRMA	Michigan! My Michigan!	2021	\$7,500
PhRMA	Michigan! My Michigan!	2020	\$15,000
PhRMA	Michigan! My Michigan!	2019	\$7,000
			<b>TOTAL: \$29,500</b>

**Michigan! My Michigan! Was One Of Three Groups That Made Up Almost 90% Of Unlock Michigan's Funding, A Petition Committee That Sought To Limit Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Emergency Powers.** “The three 501(c)(4) groups — Michigan Guardians of Democracy, Michigan Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility and Michigan! My Michigan! — have given a total \$3.3 million to Unlock Michigan, a petition committee that seeks to limit the length of a governor’s emergency orders to 28 days. That dark money made up almost 90 percent of Unlock Michigan’s total revenue of \$3.7 million by the end of December, campaign filings show.” [Bridge Michigan, [02/14/22](#)]

**Michigan! My Michigan! Shares An Address With Michigan Guardians Of Democracy And Michigan Citizens For Fiscal Responsibility According To The Organizations’ Tax Documents—All Filed On The Same Day:**

<b>C</b> Name of organization MICHIGAN MY MICHIGAN	
Doing business as	
Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) 106 W ALLEGAN ST 200	Room/suite
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code LANSING, MI 48933	

[ProPublica, [11/07/23](#)]

<b>C</b> Name of organization MICHIGAN GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY	
Doing business as	
Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) 106 W ALLEGAN ST 200	Room/suite
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code LANSING, MI 48933	

[ProPublica, [11/07/23](#)]

<b>C</b> Name of organization MICHIGAN CITIZENS FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY	
Doing business as	
Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) 106 W ALLEGAN ST 200	Room/suite
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code LANSING, MI 48933	

[ProPublica, [11/07/23](#)]

**Unlock Michigan Was A Petition Campaign To Repeal The Emergency Powers Of Governor Gretchen Whitmer.** “Michigan! My Michigan!, a social welfare organization that formed in August 2018 and doesn't have to disclose its donors, is now the second largest funder of Unlock Michigan, the petition campaign to repeal the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act, according to a fundraising report due Monday.” [The Detroit News, [02/01/21](#)]

**In 2020, Michigan! My Michigan! Gave \$550,000 To The Unlock Michigan Petition Campaign As Well As \$6,000 To The Right-Wing Group Stand Up Michigan.**

According To Michigan! My Michigan Tax Documents, The Group Gave \$550,000 To Unlock Michigan In 2020:

(3) UNLOCK MICHIGAN 2145 COMMONS PARKWAY OKEMOS, MI 48864	85-1327904	501(C)(4)	550,000
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[ProPublica, [11/14/21](#)]

The Group Also Gave \$6,000 To Stand Up Michigan In The Same Year:

(1) STAND UP MICHIGAN PO BOX 668 NEWAYGO, MI 49337	85-0777403	501(C)(3)	6,000
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[ProPublica, [11/14/21](#)]

**Stand Up Michigan Has Been Described As The States' "Leading Far-Right Umbrella Group."** "That's Stand Up Michigan, as mentioned above the state's leading far-right umbrella group, which has attracted and embraced some of the most marginal figures in the conservative movement, including individuals responsible for making violent threats against the government, but which is nonetheless becoming a powerful force in mainstream Republican politics." [Salon, [04/06/22](#)]

**In February 2024, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel Charged Two Republican Fundraisers For Illegally Funneling Money To Unlock Michigan And For Allegedly Concealing Communications With Then-Michigan Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey About Funding Unlock Michigan.**

**Both Michigan! My Michigan! And Michigan Citizens For Fiscal Responsibility Illegally Funneled Money To Unlock Michigan.**

**February 2024: Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel Charged Two Republican Fundraisers, Heather Lombardini And Sandy Baxter, With Illegally Concealing The Names Of Donors To Unlock Michigan By Moving The Money Through Nonprofits.** "Attorney General Dana Nessel unveiled criminal charges Wednesday against two longtime Republican fundraisers who were allegedly involved in an effort to conceal the names of donors to a campaign to reduce Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's emergency powers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Heather Lombardini and Sandy Baxter helped raise money for the Unlock Michigan

ballot proposal committee in 2020 and 2021 through nonprofit organizations that didn't have to identify their contributors, Nessel said at a press conference. By moving the dollars through the nonprofits first, the donors didn't have to be revealed publicly. If they had given directly to the controversial Unlock Michigan petition effort, the committee would have had to report their names. The two nonprofits, both tied to then-Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake, gave about \$2.7 million to Unlock Michigan.” [The Detroit News, [02/21/24](#)]

## **Two Women, Heather Lombardini And Sandy Baxter, Were Charged With Felonies For Their Roles In Directing Non-Profit Money To Unlock Michigan.**

**Heather Lombardini Was Charged With Three Misdemeanor Violations And A Felony For Breaking Campaign Finance Laws And Lying About Michigan Citizens For Fiscal Responsibility’s Connection To Unlock Michigan.** “On Wednesday, Nessel's office charged Lombardini, co-founder of the Lansing-based consulting firm Bright Spark Strategies, with three misdemeanor violations of the state's campaign finance law and a 14-year felony of uttering and publishing — willfully making or publishing a false statement with the intent to defraud. The felony was tied to Lombardini's signing an affidavit in September 2020, denying that funds had been solicited through the nonprofit Michigan Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility for the purpose of giving the dollars to Unlock Michigan.” [The Detroit News, [02/21/24](#)]

- **Lombardini Served As President Of Michigan Citizens For Fiscal Responsibility And Treasurer Of Michigan! My Michigan!**

(4) HEATHER LOMBARDINI

.....  
PRESIDENT

[ProPublica, [11/07/23](#)]

(2) HEATHER LOMBARDINI

.....  
TREASURER/DIRECTOR

[ProPublica, [11/07/23](#)]

**Sandy Baxter, Who Raised Money Through Michigan! My Michigan!, Was Charged With Perjury For Concealing Communications With Then-Michigan Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey About Funding Unlock Michigan.** “Baxter, who has a firm called TopFundraising.com, was involved in raising money for Unlock Michigan through the nonprofit Michigan! My Michigan! and provided investigators ‘false information while under oath,’ Nessel said. Baxter, 63, of Caledonia, a past finance director for the Michigan Republican Party, is charged with perjury, a 15-year felony. She allegedly told investigations in a March 10, 2023, interview that she had no direct contact with Shirkey ‘regarding helping out with donations for Unlock Michigan,’ according to an affidavit from the Attorney General's office. However, Baker had sent an email to Shirkey on Aug. 6, 2020, that included a memo she had written regarding

her thoughts on how to raise money for Unlock Michigan, according to the affidavit.” [The Detroit News, [02/21/24](#)]