

Report of Top Seven of All-Time Organization Donors

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Introduction

Campaign finance is the money spent on supporting electoral campaigns in the United States at all levels of government. At a federal level, Congress is responsible for enacting campaign finance law, which is enforced by an independent federal body, the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Most of the campaign financing is privately financed by the campaign donors, while public funding is available for the qualifying presidential candidates during primaries and general elections. To qualify for public funding, one must be eligible for government subsidy. Those who use public funding are subjected to expenditure limits. Those who are running for state and local government offices are governed and regulated by state and local finance law. The state and local laws differ from state to state; thus, some states allow corporate and union contributions to campaigns while others do not. The only four states that do not have a contribution limit include Utah, Oregon, Missouri, and Virginia. The thesis of this paper is the 2016 presidential race campaign funding report by each candidate and the report of top organizations that have contributed to campaign finance.

Influence and Lobbying

Organizations Profile Report

Organizations include corporations, unions, and super PACs. Therefore, organizations' funds have played an important role in funding political campaigns. The organizations managed to give more funds to campaigns than individuals' money alone. Thus, the organizations' money is a crucial force and source of campaign funds. They have contributed money to individual politicians, Media and through lobbying efforts. Therefore, the organizations have made their voices heard with the aim of influencing elected officials and enacting legislation that protects their economic, political, and social interests.

Historically, top organizations have contributed to the campaigns with the aim of protecting their interests.

Report of Top Seven of All-Time Organization Donors

Rank	Organizations	Total Contributions
1	Service Employees International Union	\$278,431,918
2	Fahr LLC	\$181,612,614
3	National Education Assn	\$124,339,250
4	American Federation of State	\$114,823,339
5	Las Vegas Sands	\$113,866,908
6	Carpenters & Joiners Union	\$112,065,035
7	American Federations of Teachers	\$110,854,652

The Service Employees International Union is the biggest contributor of all time to campaign funds in American history. (Giving USA Foundation, 2024) Therefore, all the above organizations are the top seven contributors to American politics.

There are different types of organizations that fund the campaigns, including lobbying and business organizations. The union organization funds political campaigns to expand its influence on policies that will favour its interests. Also, lobbying organizations are those organizations that contribute to the campaigns, such as influencing the congress on certain bills that favour their interest. The campaign funds are contributed by both individuals and organizations. Also, these organizations either fund a Republican or democrat candidate. Moreover, most organizations have consistently funded a particular party candidate during every election period.

Therefore, lobbying organizations fund the campaign with special interests; lobbying describes the scenario where the group with special interests hire well-connected lawyers to advocate certain bills to policymakers in the United States.

Although organizations contribute a lot of cash to campaigns, corporations and unions are not allowed to donate directly to candidates and the national party. One disadvantage of personal donations is

that campaigns look out for “blunders”; thus, individuals can gather donations from different organizations and individuals and contribute the sum to the campaign.

Politician & Elections

2016 Presidential Race Campaign Funding by Candidate

The 2016 race began early with high numbers of potential candidates lobbying for party donors. (Charity Navigator, n.d.) The donor plays an important role in funding candidate campaigns. Therefore, the candidates assembled teams that were later led by the campaign staff. The amount raised by the 2016 presidential race candidates was \$1.5, and the amount raised by the super PACs supporting them was \$618Campaign.

Funds by Each Candidate

Candidate	Committee money	Outside money
Hillary Clinton	\$563,756,928	231,118,680
Donald Trump	333,127,164	75,269,043
Gary Johnson	11,983,980	1,386,971
Jill Stein	3,713,170	0
Evan McMullin	1,634,822	0

Candidate Committee Money

Hillary Clinton had the biggest contributions compared to other candidates, but Donald Trump won the election. Therefore, the campaign’s fund helps the candidates conduct their campaigns, but it doesn’t mean that the money will make them win the elections. Raising money enables the candidate to spend that money on the campaigns; thus, raising money is the first step for any running candidate. The money raised must be reported to the Federal Election Commission. The committee money is money raised by the candidate’s super PACS, while the outside money is money raised from organizations and other well-wishers.

The political action committee (PAC) contributed much of the money that was used in the 2016 presidential campaigns. Super PACs are organizations for or against certain political candidates. An organization becomes a PAC if it can spend more than \$1000 to influence an election. Therefore, super PACs were the biggest contributors to the campaign that was used in the 2016 race.

Conclusion

The finding of the reports is that the candidates are using a lot of funds in their campaigns. Those who are running for state and local government offices are governed and regulated by state and local finance law. The presidential race used \$1.5 billion in campaign funds. Also, organizations use a lot of cash to fund candidates who are running for office. There is less use of public funding since candidates are subjected to expenditure limits. Therefore, most of the funds that are used in elections come from private citizens and organizations.

References

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