

Money in Politics: Who Gives

<1% of Americans Finance U.S. Elections

- Less than a quarter of 1% of the U.S. Population (0.24%) made itemized contributions of \$200+ to federal candidates or PACs in 2010, accounting for \$1.3 billion or approximately 90% of total funds.
- Fewer than one out of 2,000 citizens (0.04%) contributed amounts of \$2,300 or more in 2010, accounting for two-thirds of total funds or nearly \$1 billion.
- The number of male donors exceeded female donors by a factor of 2.5 to 1.

Geographic Concentration of Major Donors

- The top 5 metro areas by political contributions – DC, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Boston – contributed nearly \$700 million in 2010, half the total and more than the bottom 43 states combined.
- Metro DC alone contributed \$294 million in 2010, more than the bottom 32 states combined.
- Demographic analysis of the top five donor zip codes in 2010 found median incomes at approx. twice the national rate and 80-90% white concentration.
- A 2004 national study of racial distribution of campaign contributions found that 89.4% of money came from predominantly non-Hispanic white zip codes and 10.6% came from primarily minority zip codes.

Major Industries Top 2010 Contributors

- The top contributing industry sectors – finance and real estate, lawyers and lobbyists, healthcare, communications, and misc. business – provided a combined \$627 million in campaign money to federal candidates in 2010.
- Contributions from the top five sectors accounted for more than 50% of total itemized contributions, compared with 13% from ideological/single issue groups and 4.6% from labor unions.
- Industry giving to the two major political parties was roughly even across sectors, with Democrats receiving 55% of total contributions.

Sources: Federal Election Commission, Center for Responsive Politics, Public Campaign's "The Color of Money" Project

Fig. 1: Federal Campaign Contribs Breakdown, 2010

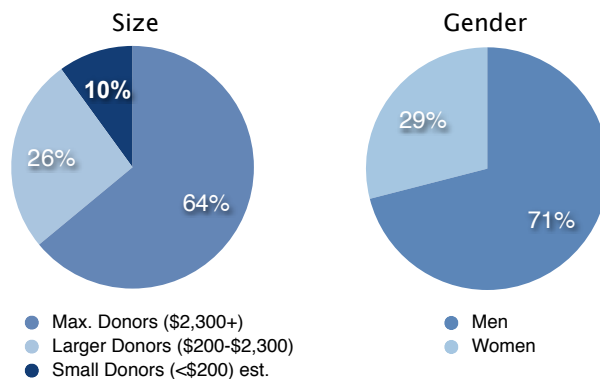


Fig. 2: Contributions Per Capita, 2008 (millions)
Top Metropolitan Area Zip Codes v. Nationwide

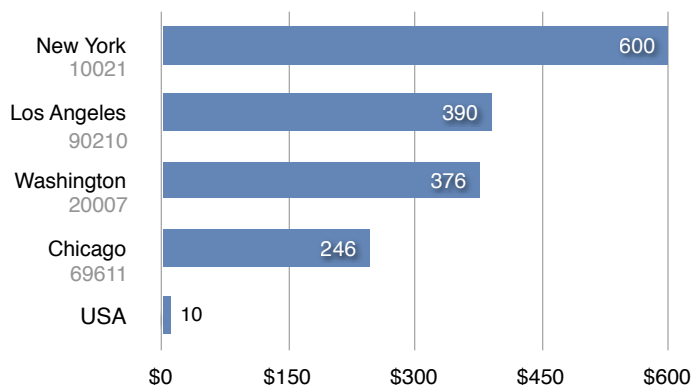


Fig. 3: Top Five Contributing Sectors, 2010 (millions)

