



## **NAMES IN THE NEWS: GOV. SARAH PALIN**

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On Aug. 29, 2008, John McCain announced his running mate for the 2008 presidential contest, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. Palin is not only the first woman to run on a Republican presidential ticket, she is also the first politician from Alaska to be on a presidential team.

Gov. Palin began her political career on the Wasilla City Council, where she served from 1992 to 1996, then served as mayor from 1996 to 2002. In 2002, Palin ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in the Republican primary,<sup>1</sup> raising only \$48,641. In comparison, the winner of the 2002 Republican primary, Loren D. Leman, raised \$236,875.

In 2006, Palin ran for governor on a clean-government campaign,<sup>2</sup> with an upset victory in the primary over then-incumbent Gov. Frank Murkowski. She then went on to defeat former Gov. Tony Knowles in the general election to become the youngest person, and the first woman, elected governor of Alaska.<sup>3</sup>

Palin filed a report indicating no financial activity for 2007, and Alaska state law does not require her to file any campaign finance reports for 2008.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO SARAH PALIN, 2002 AND 2006

<b>ELECTION</b>	<b>CAMPAIGN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2002	Lt. Governor	\$48,641
2006	Gubernatorial Primary	\$432,711
2006	Gubernatorial General	\$873,286
<b>2006 TOTAL</b>		<b>1,305,996</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,354,637</b>

In Palin's 2002 campaign, as one of five candidates for lieutenant governor, Palin raised under \$50,000. But in 2006, when she was a gubernatorial candidate running a well-publicized primary and general election campaign, she raised significantly more campaign cash.

#### ANALYSIS OF 2006 CONTRIBUTIONS

Palin raised a total of \$1.3 million in campaign donations for her 2006 gubernatorial campaign, including funds she raised during her primary campaign and the money she and Lt. Gov. Parnell raised during their general election campaign.

Palin's largest source of money came from individual donors, who gave a total of \$1.2 million. Next were state and local Republican Party committees, which together gave \$75,183, or 5.6 percent of her total. Fellow Republican candidates gave Palin's campaign \$21,869, while labor organizations gave \$14,415.

<sup>1</sup> In Alaska, candidates for lieutenant governor run separately in the primary but together with gubernatorial candidates as a ticket in the general election.

<sup>2</sup> Nancy Pfothenauer, "Ignore the Chauvinists. Palin has Real Experience," *Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 2, 2008, available from [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122031229774188795.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122031229774188795.html?mod=googlenews_wsj), accessed Sept. 2, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> "Alaska Governor Sarah Palin," *State of Alaska*, available from <http://gov.state.ak.us/bio.html>, accessed Aug. 29, 2008.

Due to Alaska’s relatively strict campaign finance laws, where corporate contributions are banned and PACs could only give \$1,000 per year during the 2006 elections, businesses and PACs gave a collective total of only \$34,874, or 2.6 percent of the total.

**TOP TEN CONTRIBUTORS TO SARAH PALIN, 2006**

<b>TOP DONORS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Alaska Republican Party	\$27,000
Capital City Republican Women	\$12,000
Alaska Federation Of Republican Women	\$9,500
Kenai Peninsula Republican Women	\$6,500
Anchorage Republican Women’s Club	\$6,133
Holmes, Doyle E. & Debra	\$6,000
Mat-Su Republican Women’s Club	\$5,300
Stinson, Lawrence W. & Family	\$5,100
Smith, Dorwin & Joanne H.	\$5,000
Lind, Destry T. and Holly A.	\$4,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$87,433</b>

Many of Palin’s top individual donors gave the maximum amount allowed by law — \$2,000 over the two years to each campaign committee. In some circumstances, spouses and children from the same household would make additional contributions. These contributions are totaled together in the table above.

- Doyle E. Holmes, a local assemblyman who has repeatedly (and unsuccessfully) run for the Alaska House of Representatives, and his wife Debra, each gave Palin \$3,000 for her 2006 campaign. Holmes also gave \$500 to support Palin in 2002.
- Lawrence W. Stinson, a medical doctor from Anchorage, gave \$2,000. Other members of his family — Elizabeth, Matthew and Sara Stinson — together gave an additional \$3,100.
- Land developer Dorwin Smith, from Palin’s town of Wasilla, Alaska, and his wife Joanne Smith, each contributed \$2,500.
- Destry T. Lind, owner of Consolidated Enterprises, a general commercial contracting firm, and his wife, Holly Lind, each gave \$2,450 in direct as well as in-kind contributions.

Individual donations came the most from retired individuals, contributing \$96,459, followed by government employees and public officials, who gave a total of \$84,428. Health professionals were third, with \$49,260.

**INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SARAH PALIN BY TOP INDUSTRY,  
2006**

<b>TOP INDUSTRY<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Retired	\$96,459
Civil Servants/Public Officials	\$84,428
Commercial Fishing	\$49,260
Health Professionals	\$49,172
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$34,283
Real Estate	\$33,459
General Contractors	\$24,616
Telecom Services & Equipment	\$17,400
Food & Beverage	\$15,778
Construction Services	\$11,326
Oil & Gas	\$10,975
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$435,506</b>

**TOP COMPANY/PAC CONTRIBUTIONS**

Although corporate PACs did not make up a large percentage of Palin's total receipts, there were cases where several members of a company's senior management team would donate, adding up to a significant total from employees of that company.

- Management of VECO Corporation, the Alaska-based oil pipeline service and construction company, gave \$4,500 to Palin's 2002 bid for Lieutenant Governor. During the 2006 campaign, a corruption scandal focusing on free gifts given by VECO Corp. to Alaska politicians erupted. Palin did not receive any campaign contributions from VECO or its employees for the 2006 election.
- Employees of GCI, one of Alaska's largest telecommunications companies and Alaska's largest provider of internet services,<sup>5</sup> contributed \$7,400. The company itself gave the legal limit of \$1,000.
- Alaska Communications Systems, a telecommunications company based in Anchorage, gave \$1,000. The company's management gave \$6,000.
- Employees of BP America, an oil company with a significant interest in the Alaska oil pipeline, gave \$5,429. This total includes \$679 from Palin's husband, Todd Palin, who works for BP America.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> These totals are generated from the Institute's database, which has 52 percent of Palin's contributions categorized. The remainder of the contributions are from individuals and are generally unclassifiable.

<sup>5</sup> "About GCI," *GCI*, available from <http://www.gci.com/about/index.htm>, accessed Aug. 29, 2008.

<sup>6</sup> Matt Daily, "Drilling Advocate Palin Spars with Oil Companies," *Reuters*, Aug. 29, 2008, available from <http://www.canada.com/story.html?id=1b85575c-67af-4c10-9a69-4352d9e1f7df>, accessed Sept. 2, 2008.