

NRA/Ally Contributions

By Edwin Bender
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The memo below contains a brief analysis of campaign contribution patterns associated with the National Rifle Association and anti-gun control groups. It is intended to provide background for reporters and members of the general public alike who are interested in money-in-politics aspects of current issues in the news. More information and analysis can be found by exploring the underlying campaign-contribution data elsewhere on this Follow the Money web site, or by contacting the National Institute on Money in State Politics by phone or through the web site. This memo will be updated as new information is developed. Additional reports concerning other public-policy issues also will be posted on the Follow the Money web site as data becomes available.

NRA, anti-gun control groups favor Republicans with political gifts

The National Rifle Association and other anti-gun control groups have put more than \$1.48 million into state-level races, according to a recent survey of 34 states and five election cycles conducted by the National Institute on Money in State Politics.

Republicans were the big recipients of the political gifts, receiving 69 percent of the total dollars contributed; Democrats received 14 percent, and the remaining funds went to third-party candidates or those whose party affiliation has not been determined. Winning candidates from the two major parties received 50 percent of the funds.

A complete list of the states and the election cycles included in the survey is below. The totals used in this report are conservative because data from earlier election cycles is often incomplete. Figures for the amounts received by winners and the parties also are conservative because not all data has complete status and party identifications.

Of the 2,853 contributions found by the survey, 1,963 were from the NRA, accounting for 76.9 percent or \$1,143,316 of the total contributed by anti-gun control forces. The Gun Owners of California contributed 41 times for a total of \$124,781; the Gun Owners Action League contributed 365 times for \$93,824; the California Rifle and Pistol Association contributed 107 times for \$52,952; and the Oregon Gun Owners PAC gave 117 times for \$15,008.

While the level of contributing by anti-gun control groups is significant, it pales when compared to other major contributors. For example, a similar Institute survey of state-level contributing by the gambling industry revealed more than \$20 million in political gifts over the same time periods and states. The top 10 casinos alone gave more than \$4.4 million. But what the NRA and its allies lack in political contributions they more than make up in membership, which is reportedly 2.8 million strong.

And when the NRA feels its issue is facing a major test, the vault door opens. In the most recent cases, the NRA put more than \$4 million into a losing initiative effort in Missouri to legalize

concealed weapons and more than \$2 million into a successful 1997 Washington state effort to defeat an initiative that would have required trigger guards on all handguns sold. (Nearly \$3.2 million was raised to defeat the Washington initiative.)

The NRA does write hefty checks to some candidates it supports. The average amount contributed to candidates by the NRA was \$540, but contributions ranged from \$20,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000 to candidates in California, New Jersey and Colorado, to \$50, with 55 percent of the contributions coming in chunks of \$1,000 or more.

Summary Data

Data discussed in this report is available from the Follow the money web site and also directly from the National Institute on Money in State Politics. To explore the data yourself, click on the Enter the Database portion of the site. The data is organized into Sectors, then Industries, then basic businesses. NRA and other anti-gun control group contributions are categorized under the major Sector of Ideology. After selecting a state and year, set of states or candidate, click on the Sector chart to move to the underlying numbers; then click on Ideology. Click on Anti-Gun Control and select a report type to see a list of top recipients or top contributors, or to see contribution breakdowns by state or political affiliation, or to see a list of the actual contributions.

The following charts summarize data extracted by the survey. The first chart shows the contributions by state, with a total contributed by the anti-gun control groups and the amounts given to the two major political parties. The second is a list of the states and years in which contributions were found by the survey. This chart also indicates the status of the databases searched, whether it contains complete or only partial data for the election cycle.

State Totals for NRA/Ally Contributions

(With breakdowns and percentages for Democrat and Republican Parties.)

State	Total	Democrat	D %	Republican	R %
CA	\$564,053	\$69,114	12.3%	\$494,939	87.7%
WA	\$197,843	\$10,250	5.2%	\$177,393	89.7%
CO	\$115,730	\$00	0.0%	\$11,850	10.2%
NJ	\$96,350	\$00	0.0%	\$95,350	99.0%
OR	\$61,433	\$14,833	24.1%	\$46,250	75.3%
IL	\$49,280	\$8,800	17.9%	\$40,480	82.1%
RI	\$33,335	\$22,835	68.5%	\$10,500	31.5%
KS	\$31,500	\$3,000	9.5%	\$28,500	90.5%

OH	\$30,690	\$2,950	9.6%	\$27,740	90.4%
MI	\$29,933	\$7,783	26.0%	\$22,150	74.0%
NC	\$24,950	\$4,850	19.4%	\$20,100	80.6%
ID	\$24,200	\$1,900	7.9%	\$21,800	90.1%
AK	\$23,370	\$4,850	20.8%	\$17,895	76.6%
TX	\$22,700	\$7,700	33.9%	\$15,000	66.1%
NM	\$21,950	\$7,150	32.6%	\$14,800	67.4%
NV	\$18,350	\$8,750	47.7%	\$9,600	52.3%
FL	\$18,000	\$1,000	5.6%	\$17,000	94.4%
GA	\$17,500	\$10,550	60.3%	\$6,950	39.7%
IN	\$12,575	\$3,975	31.6%	\$8,600	68.4%
MO	\$12,220	\$6,125	50.1%	\$6,095	49.9%
KY	\$10,788	\$3,888	36.0%	\$6,900	64.0%
NY	\$10,650	\$00	0.0%	\$10,400	97.7%
MT	\$8,550	\$2,050	24.0%	\$6,500	76.0%
ME	\$8,300	\$2,150	25.9%	\$6,150	74.1%
IA	\$7,900	\$1,400	17.7%	\$6,500	82.3%
WV	\$6,800	\$3,800	55.9%	\$3,000	44.1%
MN	\$6,770	\$20	0.3%	\$750	11.1%
CT	\$6,525	\$00	0.0%	\$6,525	100.0%
VT	\$4,000	\$1,250	31.2%	\$2,750	68.8%
TN	\$3,500	\$2,000	57.1%	\$1,500	42.9%
AZ	\$3,450	\$00	0.0%	\$3,450	100.0%
MA	\$1,750	\$1,350	77.1%	\$300	17.1%
OK	\$1,000	\$00	0.0%	\$1,000	100.0%
ND	\$950	\$350	36.8%	\$600	63.2%

Summary Data from NRA/Anti-Gun Control Contribution Survey

The following table lists the NRA and anti-gun control contributions by state and election year. The NOTES column indicates the status of the database. **Complete** indicates a database that has all available data and has been fully researched. **Incomplete** indicates a database that has been identified as missing contribution data. **Preliminary** indicates a database that is in the process of being input, audited and researched. As a result the totals listed for these databases are preliminary and it is unknown whether the data is complete. Other notations in the NOTES column indicate if the database is **General Election only** or **Senate only**, etc.

STATEYEAR	NOTES	NRA CONTRIB
AK90	COMPLETE	\$9,970
AK92	COMPLETE	\$1,900
AK94	COMPLETE	\$6,200
AK96	COMPLETE	\$5,300
AZ96	COMPLETE	\$300
AZ98	COMPLETE	\$3,150
CA94	PRELIMINARY	\$142,355
CA96	PRELIMINARY	\$122,067
CA98	PRELIMINARY	\$299,631
CO92	INCOMPLETE	\$47,200
CO94	INCOMPLETE	\$49,290
CO96	INCOMPLETE	\$9,700
CO98	PRELIMINARY	\$9,540
CT96	SENATE ONLY	\$5,525
CT98	GOV ROWLAND ONLY	\$1,000
FL98	COMPLETE	\$18,000
GA92	INCOMPLETE	\$7,500
GA94	INCOMPLETE	\$2,200
GA96	COMPLETE	\$8,300
ID90	COMPLETE	\$2,500
ID92	COMPLETE	\$1,000
ID94	COMPLETE	\$7,300

ID96	COMPLETE	\$4,600
ID98	PRELIMINARY	\$8,800
IL96	COMPLETE	\$22,930
IL98	INCOMPLETE	\$26,850
IN94	GENERAL ELECTION ONLY	\$2,25
0 IN96	GENERAL ELECTION ONLY	\$4,450
IN98	PRELIMINARY	\$5,875
IA98	PRELIMINARY	\$7,900
KS94	STATEWIDE ONLY	\$3,000
KS96	COMPLETE	\$12,400
KS98	PRELIMINARY	\$16,100
KY94	COMPLETE	\$1,350
KY95	COMPLETE	\$0
KY96	COMPLETE	\$9,438
MA96	INCOMPLETE	\$1,750
ME96	COMPLETE	\$4,350
ME98	INCOMPLETE	\$0
ME98	COMPLETE	\$3,950
MI94	INCOMPLETE	\$983
MI96	COMPLETE	\$14,875
MI98	INCOMPLETE	\$14,100
MN96	COMPLETE	\$0
MN98	INCOMPLETE	\$6,770
MO96	WINNERS ONLY	\$4,250
MO98	PRELIMINARY	\$7,970
MT90	COMPLETE	\$1,100
MT92	COMPLETE	\$0
MT94	COMPLETE	\$2,800
MT96	COMPLETE	\$1,850
MT98	PRELIMINARY	\$2,800

NC96	SENATE ONLY	\$6,850
NC98	PRELIMINARY	\$18,100
ND98	PRELIMINARY	\$950
NH96	SENATE ONLY	\$0
NH98	PRELIMINARY	\$0
NJ91	PRELIMINARY	\$75,100
NJ93	PRELIMINARY	\$10,000
NJ95	PRELIMINARY	\$5,950
NJ97	PRELIMINARY	\$5,300
NM92	INCOMPLETE	\$9,550
NM94	INCOMPLETE	\$5,350
NM96	INCOMPLETE	\$3,650
NM98	PRELIMINARY	\$3,400
NV90	COMPLETE	\$1,000
NV92	COMPLETE	\$4,000
NV94	NO STATEWIDES	\$1,600
NV96	COMPLETE	\$2,750
NV98	PRELIMINARY	\$9,000
NY96	SENATE ONLY	\$10,650
OH96	GENERAL ELECTION ONLY	\$30,690
OK98	PRELIMINARY	\$1,000
OR90	GENERAL ELECTION ONLY	\$7,100
OR92	COMPLETE	\$17,400
OR94	COMPLETE	\$9,633
OR96	COMPLETE	\$10,050
OR98	COMPLETE	\$17,450
RI93	COMPLETE	\$2,130
RI94	COMPLETE	\$15,465
RI95	COMPLETE	\$3,240
RI96	COMPLETE	\$12,500

TN96	SENATE ONLY	\$3,500
TX98	PRELIMINARY	\$22,700
VT96	SENATE ONLY	\$2,000
VT98	INCOMPLETE	\$2,000
WA90	COMPLETE	\$16,074
WA92	COMPLETE	\$28,300
WA94	COMPLETE	\$36,350
WA96	COMPLETE	\$33,256
WA98	PRELIMINARY	\$83,864
WI89	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WI90	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WI91	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WI92	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WI93	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WI94	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WI95	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WI96	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WI97	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WI98	PRELIMINARY	\$0
WV96	PRELIMINARY	\$1,000
WV98	PRELIMINARY	\$5,800
TOTALS		\$1,488,121