

1998 Kentucky Legislative Elections & 1999 Kentucky Statewide Elections Analysis

By Mark Dixon
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The 1998 Kentucky elections covered 100 seats in the House of Representatives and 19 of 38 Senate seats. Senate candidates vied for five open seats and House candidates ran for 14 open seats.

In 1999, candidates ran for nine statewide offices; only four of those races were contested and the state Treasurer's race was open.

The offices candidates sought in 1998 and 1999, with a total raised by all candidates, include:

OFFICE	TOTAL
GOVERNOR	\$4,304,055
100 HOUSE SEATS	\$3,511,352
19 SENATE SEATS	\$2,797,361
STATE TREASURER	\$1,119,060
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE	\$331,767
ATTORNEY GENERAL	\$231,034
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS	\$158,986
SECRETARY OF STATE	\$18,115
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER - 2ND DIST	\$9,711
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER - 3RD DIST	\$3,398
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER - 1ST DIST	NO REPORTS
TOTAL FOR '98 & '99	\$12,484,839

The following charts detail the numbers of candidates who ran, their party affiliation and electoral status, amounts raised by the various groups, and how they fared in the election:

TOTAL \$	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	General Losers	Primary Losers
Statewide	\$4,703,450	\$353,617	\$1,114,537	\$5,638,036	\$223,569	\$309,999
Legislative	\$2,712,381	\$1,716,638	\$1,879,694	\$4,066,507	\$1,079,895	\$1,162,311
TOTAL	\$7,415,831	\$2,070,254	\$2,994,232	\$9,704,543	\$1,303,464	\$1,472,310

CANDIDATES	Republican	Democratic	Third Party	TOTAL	Incumbents	Challengers	Open
Statewide	6	12	2	20	10	8	2
Legislative	94	163	1	258	100	90	68
TOTAL	100	175	3	278	110	98	70

WINNERS	Republican	Democratic	Incumbents	Challengers	Open
Statewide	0	9	8	0	1
Legislative	44	75	92	8	19
TOTAL	44	84	100	8	20

THE 1999 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS

1999 was the first year in the modern history of Kentucky in which an incumbent governor was allowed to run for a second term. In 1993, the state constitution was amended so that incumbent governors could run for a second term. The 1999 general election also was marked by a very low

voter turnout. The poor showing of voters on election day was perhaps due to the lack of serious competition facing the incumbent governor, Paul Patton. The Republican gubernatorial nominee, Peppy Martin, failed to garner the full support of her party, and four of the other eight statewide offices were not even contested. The table below shows who ran and how much they raised. No public funding was used by any candidate in the 1999 race even though it was available to top contenders who reached a \$327,000 fund-raising threshold. Only Patton passed that threshold.

Gubernatorial Candidates	Party	Status	Total \$
Paul Patton	Democrat	Incumbent / Won	\$3,958,816
Peppy Martin	Republican	Lost in General	\$217,141
Gatewood Galbraith	Reform Party	Lost in Primary	\$117,780
Nailah Jumoke-Yarbrough	Natural Law	Lost in Primary	\$5,590
Hoby Ward Anderson	Republican	Lost in Primary	\$3,699
David Williams	Republican	Lost in Primary	\$1,030
1999 Gub Total			\$4,304,055

Top Five Economic Sectors giving to Patton	Total Contributed	% of Total
Balance Forward	\$2,159,309	55%
Civil Servants Educators Retired & Others	\$403,625	10%
Construction	\$215,550	5%
Finance Insurance & Real Estate	\$210,319	5%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$168,330	4%
Total	\$3,157,133	80%

One likely reason that there was no contest in the gubernatorial race was that the incumbent was well funded even before the race began. Patton's balance forward was several times larger than the sum of the total funds raised by all other gubernatorial candidates.

1999 STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

The 1999 statewide races, including governor, were all won by Democrats. Four seats were uncontested. The only office not won by the incumbent was state Treasurer, which was an open race. The following table details the total dollars candidates raised in each race.

Office	Candidate	Status	Total Raised
Attorney General	A B Chandler - D	Won - Incumbent	\$231,034
Auditor of Public Accounts	Ed Hatchett - D	Won - Incumbent	\$158,986
Commissioner of Agriculture	Billy Ray Smith - D	Won - Incumbent	\$331,767
Railroad Commissioner - 1st Dist	William Bailey - D	Won - Incumbent	No Reports
Railroad Commissioner - 2nd Dist	Henry Spalding - D	Won - Incumbent	\$3,533
	Todd Strecker - R	Lost in General	\$5,946
	Ronald Ferguson - D	Lost in Primary	\$233
Railroad Commissioner - 3rd Dist	John Combs - D	Won - Incumbent	\$1,200
	Anita Steffen - R	Lost in General	\$492
	Thomas Callahan - D	Lost in Primary	\$1,590
	Dennis Norton - R	Lost in Primary	\$126
Secretary of State	John Brown III - D	Won - Incumbent	\$18,115
State Treasurer	Jonathan Miller - D	Won - Open Race	\$934,586
	Susan Johns - D	Lost in Primary	\$179,951
1999 Statewide Total			\$1,867,548

1998 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

HOUSE AVG RAISED	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	General Losers	Primary Losers
Republicans	\$15,688	\$9,045	\$19,211	\$20,096	\$8,914	\$8,264
Democrats	\$21,164	\$10,615	\$26,373	\$24,939	\$12,619	\$13,598

The Democrats picked up two House seats in the 1998 elections, bringing the Democratic majority in the House to 66. The Republicans had 34 seats. The following chart shows average amounts raised, by candidate type, in House races:

Neither party gained seats in the Senate in 1998. The Democrats held their majority of 20 seats to the Republicans' 18. The following chart shows average amounts raised, by candidate type, in Senate races:

SENATE AVG RAISED	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	General Losers	Primary Losers
Republicans	\$83,320	\$51,042	\$62,365	\$86,045	\$56,215	\$21,003
Democrats	\$65,002	\$46,185	\$27,186	\$97,424	\$18,283	\$27,610

SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

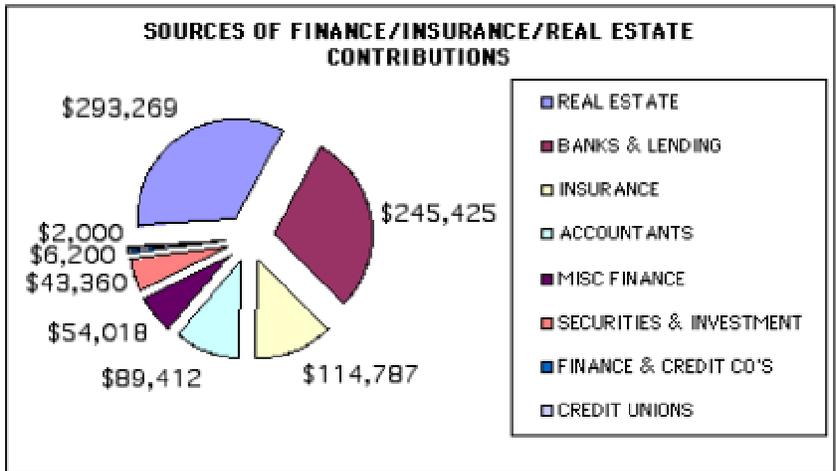
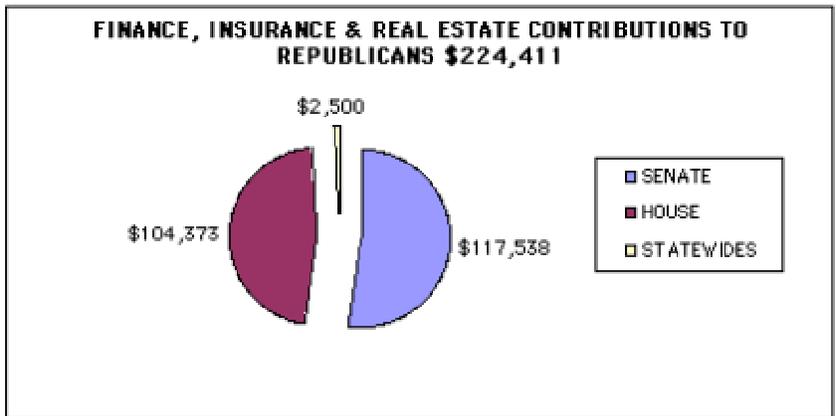
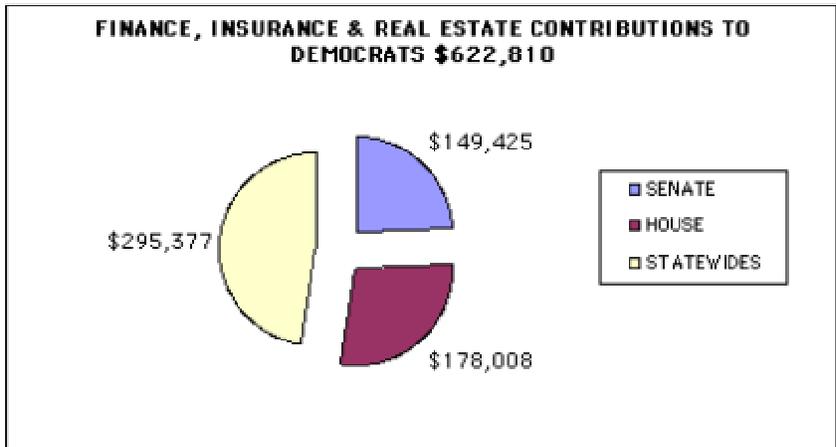
The following table shows which economic sectors gave the most money and a percentage breakdown of how much each party received. Contributions in the database that could not be identified are not included in this table. Not included in the figures below is \$3,477,005 of balance-forward and interest money that candidates gave to themselves.

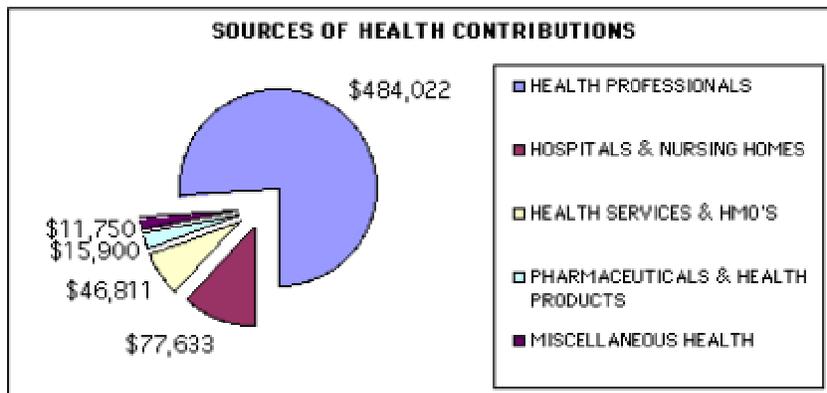
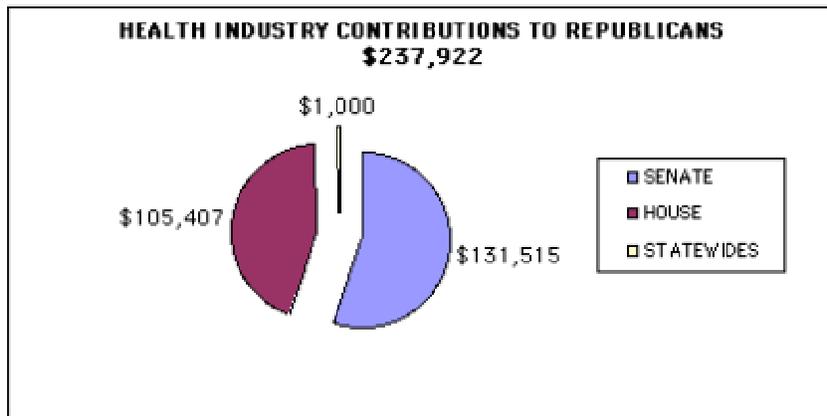
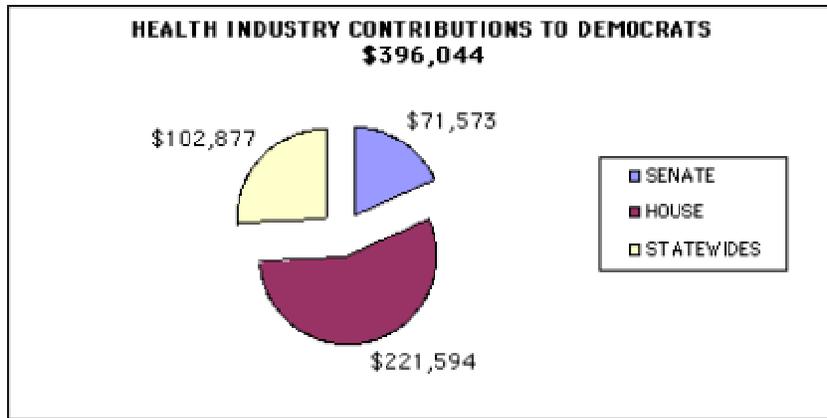
Economic Sector	R% / D%	Total Contributed	% of Total
Candidates	25 / 75	\$1,408,002	18.0%
Small Contributions	48 / 52	\$966,721	12.4%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	27 / 73	\$848,471	10.8%
Educators, Retired, Public Employees	17 / 83	\$783,517	10.0%
Health	38 / 62	\$636,116	8.1%
Construction	16 / 84	\$588,498	7.5%
Party	37 / 63	\$553,062	7.1%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	14 / 86	\$541,232	6.9%
Energy & Natural Resources	27 / 73	\$378,248	4.8%
General Business	20 / 80	\$316,535	4.0%
Labor	12 / 88	\$294,617	3.8%
Transportation	31 / 69	\$198,913	2.5%
Agriculture	24 / 76	\$190,480	2.4%
Communications & Electronics	33 / 67	\$108,702	1.4%
Ideology & Single Issue PACs	19 / 81	\$7,857	0.1%

The table below shows how much political money was given by the top 10 contributors. All top contributors are PACs or unions, and together they gave 8 percent of the money given in the 1998-1999 election cycle. Contributions from candidates to themselves and other party money are not included below.

INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARIES

The charts below detail where the major industry types contributed during the 1998-1999 election cycle, and what specific industries make up that sector:

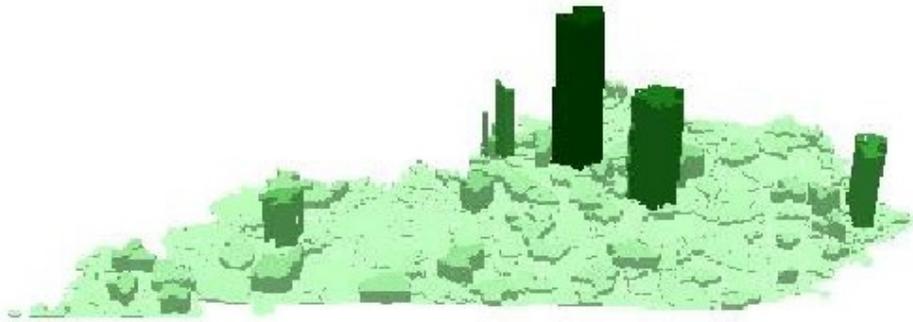




MAPPING CONTRIBUTIONS

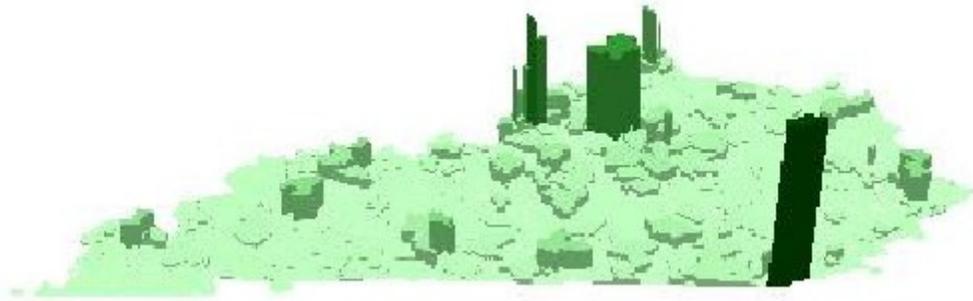
The maps below show the areas where the majority of contributions came from, within Kentucky. Zip codes are used to determine the area of origin. There is a separate map for contributions to each party.

Total Contributions by Zip Code to Democrats:\$4,193,285



The largest contributing Zip to Democrat candidates was 40601, Frankfort: \$315,385.

Total Contributions by Zip Code to Republicans:\$1,268,697



The largest contributing zip to Republican candidates was 40965, Middlesboro: \$110,691.

The zip code maps above mapped all contributions that had zip codes. A few contributions did not have Zips or couldnt be found. The total receipts by Republicans, including what was not found by Zip, was \$5,190,752. The Democrats total was \$1,650,545.

WHY WINNERS WIN

The next table compares the number of candidates selected from each party and the total money raised by each party. The totals below include money raised by all candidates, not just the winners.

PARTY COMPARISON	Democrats	Republicans
1999 SW \$ RAISED	\$5,819,810	\$228,423
TOTAL ELECTED	9	0
1998 LEG \$ RAISED	\$3,970,874	\$2,336,259
TOTAL ELECTED	75	44

INCUMBENCY & CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

- Out of 128 winners of statewide and legislative seats, only seven or 5 percent won without the advantage of incumbency or of raising the most money in their race.
- 113 of 128 winners or 88 percent were the candidates who raised the most money.
- 100 of 128 winners or 78 percent were incumbents.
- 121 of 128 winners or 95 percent had the advantages of incumbency, the most money, or both.

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Kentucky passed a campaign-finance reform measure in 1992. In summary, the law states:

Kentucky bans corporate contributions to candidates. Candidates also cannot accept contributions from federal campaign accounts. Corporations must form political action committees to make their campaign contributions.

Candidates for legislative and statewide offices can receive up to \$1,000 from individuals, PACs, and contributing organizations in each election, primary and general. Executive party committees can contribute unlimited amounts to candidates.

PAC contributions may not exceed 50 percent of a candidate's total receipts for an election or \$10,000, whichever is greater. Executive committee contributions may not exceed 50 percent of a candidate's total receipts for an election or \$10,000, whichever is greater.

Public funding is available for candidates in the gubernatorial race if certain criteria are met. Under the state's rules for public campaign financing, at least two candidates in the race must first reach a minimum threshold of \$327,514 for any candidate to be eligible for state matching funds of \$2 for every \$1 they raise. The total spending limit with public financing would be \$1.96 million each.