



NAMES IN THE NEWS: ST JOE CO.

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The company that would become St. Joe Co. was founded in the 1930s, through the efforts of DuPont-heir Alfred DuPont, as a paper company with diverse interests.¹ In the 1990s, the company began its evolution into a real-estate development company in response to criticism from the DuPont trust that the company was not performing as well as it could.²

Now Florida's largest private landowner,³ St. Joe Co. positions itself as an environmentally responsible developer by using "clustering techniques to minimize impacts on natural resources," as well as taking natural features into consideration during the planning process.⁴ The company also increases the desirability of its holdings by selling tracts of land cheaply, or giving them away, and benefiting from the resultant improvements.⁵

St. Joe Co., along with its subsidiaries, contributed nearly \$1 million to state-level candidates and party committees since 2000 and \$105,000 to ballot measure committees since 2004.⁶

Of the \$977,896 contributed to candidates and party committees, \$831,844 came directly from St. Joe Co. Other large contributors were: St. Joe Commercial Development, \$36,852; St. Joe Timberland, \$34,500; St. Joe Land Co., \$13,500; and St. Joe/Arvida Co. \$11,250. All of the \$105,000 contributed to ballot measure committees since the Institute began collecting that data in 2004 was given by St. Joe Co.

St. Joe Co. and affiliates stepped up their contributions considerably since 2000.⁷ Most of the increase came in the form of support for Florida-state party committees.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

Just \$250 of St. Joe Co. affiliated contributions were given outside of Florida. Subsidiary Advantis Real Estate Services contributed \$250 to a Virginia House candidate in 2001.

St. Joe Co. and its subsidiaries contributed overwhelmingly to Florida state-level Republican candidates and party committees. Republicans received \$915,196 compared to the \$62,450 given to Democrats.

Eighty-two percent of St. Joe Co. contributions, or \$801,946, went to Florida state party committees. The state Republican party received the bulk of the money, \$761,446, and the Florida Democratic Party collected \$40,500.

¹ "Hoover's Profile," *Answers.com* [on-line]; available from <http://www.answers.com/topic/the-st.joe-company>; Internet; accessed May 2, 2007.

² *Ibid.*

³ Greg Allen, "Fla. Company Plans to Develop Thousands of Acres," *All Things Considered* [on-line]; April 29, 2007; available from <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9857896>; Internet; accessed May 2, 2007.

⁴ "Conservation By Design," *St. Joe Co.* [on-line]; available from <http://www.joe.com/web/JoeStory/ConservationByDesign>; Internet; accessed May 7, 2007.

⁵ Greg Allen, "Fla. Company Plans to Develop Thousands of Acres," *All Things Considered* [on-line]; April 29, 2007; available from <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9857896>; Internet; accessed May 2, 2007.

⁶ The Institute did not collect campaign finances for ballot measure committees prior to the 2004 election cycle.

⁷ Data collection for the 2006 election cycle is ongoing.

State legislative candidates received a combined \$115,450 from St. Joe Co. and its affiliates. House candidates received \$73,950 and Senate hopefuls gathered \$41,500.

St. Joe Co. contributed to three ballot measure committees in 2004 and 2006. In 2006, St. Joe Co. gave \$40,000 to Protect Our Constitution, a committee advocating that 60 percent of voters be required to approve constitutional amendments rather than the currently required simple majority. St. Joe Co. also contributed \$15,000 to Coalition to Save Florida Jobs in 2004, which attempted to prevent the passage of a state minimum wage increase.

In 2004, St. Joe Co. supported the repeal of a constitutional amendment to require development of a high-speed rail system to serve the state of Florida. The company contributed \$50,000 to the efforts of proponent-committee Derail the Bullet Train PAC. St. Joe Co. and its affiliates also contributed \$13,000 to Jeb Bush in 2002 while he was serving as Florida's governor. Bush opposed the high-speed rail because he deemed it too costly.⁸ Instead, St. Joe Co. donated land for a new airport to serve the Florida Panhandle, where the company owns much of its land and has developed residential and vacation properties.⁹

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ST. JOE CO. & AFFILIATES BY OFFICE, 2000-2006

OFFICE	TOTAL
Party Committees	\$801,946
Legislature	\$115,450
Ballot Measure Committees	\$105,000
Governor/Lieutenant Governor	\$19,000
Attorney General	\$13,500
Chief Financial Officer	\$12,000
Commissioner of Agriculture	\$7,500
Commissioner of Education	\$4,500
Treasurer	\$4,000
TOTAL	\$1,082,896

St. Joe Co. supported winning candidates more often than those who lost. Of the nearly \$175,000 contributed to candidates up for election, \$154,250 went to winners.

Candidates seeking open seats received the largest share of St. Joe Co. money, \$93,700; incumbents, not far behind, got \$77,250. Open seat races often draw large sums of money since there is no candidate with the clear advantage of incumbency. Candidates challenging incumbents received only \$5,000 from St. Joe Co. and its subsidiaries.

⁸ Bill Ruffy, "Governor Crist Could Resurrect High-Speed Rail Project," *The Ledger*, Feb. 12, 2007 [newspaper on-line]; available from <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070212/COLUMNISTS0502/702120356&SearchID=73272066374453>; Internet; accessed May 4, 2007.

⁹ Greg Allen, "Developer A Key Player in Florida Airport Fight," *All Things Considered* [on-line], May 1, 2007; available from <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9857896>; Internet; accessed May 2, 2007.

St. Joe Co. contributions to 10 top recipients accounted for 89 percent of all the money given to candidates and party committees between 2000 and 2006.

TOP RECIPIENTS OF ST. JOE CO. & AFFILIATED MONEY, 2000-2006

RECIPIENT	PARTY	OFFICE	STATUS	TOTAL
Florida Republican Party	Republican	Party	NA	\$761,446
Florida Democratic Party	Democrat	Party	NA	\$40,500
Crist, Charlie*	Republican	Governor	Winner	\$19,000
Bush, Jeb	Republican	Governor	Winner	\$13,000
Sink, Adelaide (Alex)	Democrat	Chief Financial Officer	Winner	\$9,000
Bronson, Charles H.	Republican	Commissioner of Agriculture	Winner	\$7,500
Gallagher, Tom*	Republican	Treasurer	Winner	\$7,000
Kilmer, Bev	Republican	House	Winner	\$6,000
McCollum, Bill	Republican	Attorney General	Winner	\$5,000
Kendrick, Will S.	Democrat	House	Winner	\$4,250
			TOTAL	\$872,946

*Candidate received money for election to more than one office. Office and status listed reflect most recent election.

In addition to the company's contributions, three St. Joe Co. executives contributed \$10,250 to Florida candidates since 2000. President and CEO Peter S. Rummell gave \$5,000, including one \$500 contribution from both he and his wife. Vice President Jerry M. Ray contributed \$3,250 and Chief Financial Officer Anthony M. Corriggio gave \$2,000.