

1998 IOWA ELECTIONS ANALYSIS

By Mark Dixon
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THE MONEY

Total 1998 dollars: \$15,541,737

Statewide Total: \$7,962,594

Legislative Total: \$7,579,144

Incumbent candidates total dollars: \$4,238,766
Challengers to incumbents total dollars: \$2,557,390

General election winners total dollars: \$8,834,028
General election losers total dollars: \$5,466,676

<i>TOTAL \$</i>	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races		Winners	Primary Losers	General Losers
Statewide	\$173,402	\$61,732	\$7,727,439		\$3,480,681	\$1,019,838	\$3,462,075
Legislative	\$4,065,364	\$2,495,657	\$1,018,122		\$5,353,347	\$221,195	\$2,004,601
TOTAL	\$4,238,766	\$2,557,389	\$8,745,581		\$8,834,028	\$1,241,033	\$5,466,676

<i>RACES</i>	Open	Incumbent vs. Challengers	Total '98 Races
Statewide	3	3	6
Legislative	20	106	126
TOTAL	23	109	132

<i>CANDIDATES</i>	Repub	Demo	3rd Party	TOTAL	Incumbents	Challengers	Open
Statewide	11	7	4	22	3	2	17
Legislative	124	110	0	234	96	101	37
TOTAL	135	117	4	256	99	103	54

<i>WINNERS</i>	Republican	Democrat	3rd Party		Incumbents	Challengers	Open
Statewide	1	5	0		3	0	3
Legislative	69	57	0		79	27	20
TOTAL	70	62	0		82	27	23

Overall, Republicans won **53%** of the legislative races in the 1998 election cycle in Iowa. In House races, Republicans ended the 1998 elections with a majority, winning 55 of 100 seats. Of the 26 Senate seats up for election, Republicans won 14, giving the party a majority in Iowa's 78th General Assembly. Republicans now fill 30 of the 50 Senate seats.

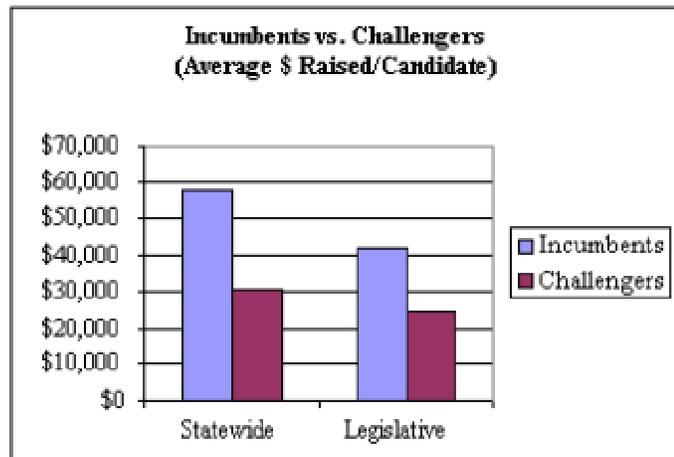
WHO GETS?

The table below shows the average amounts raised by candidates in 1998. Collectively, all candidates for the Senate raised **\$2,201,396**, while candidates for the House raised **\$5,377,747**. All 100 House seats were up for election in 1998 and 25 odd-numbered Senate seats were up for election. One exception was Senate District 46, which also was up for election since the incumbent for that office was elected to a statewide seat. [\[1\]](#)

<i>AVERAGE \$</i>	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	Primary Losers	General Losers
Statewide	\$57,801	\$30,866	\$454,556	\$580,114	\$113,315	\$494,582
Legislative	\$42,348	\$24,709	\$27,517	\$42,487	\$6,703	\$26,728
TOTAL	\$42,816	\$24,829	\$161,955	\$66,924	\$29,548	\$66,667

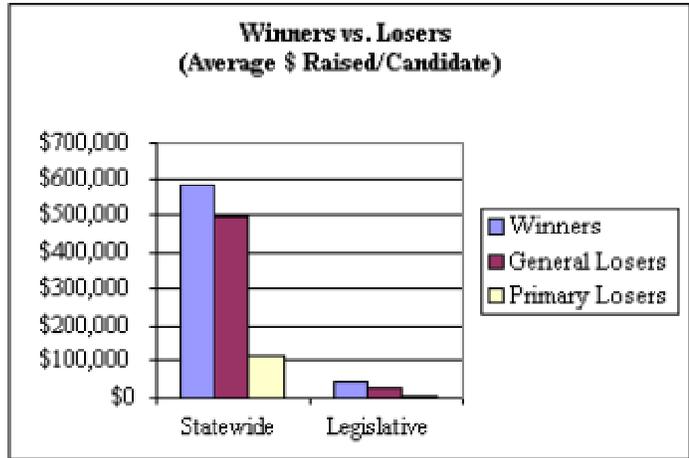
The graph to the right shows, on average, what incumbent candidates raised compared to challengers. For statewide races, incumbents raised **\$26,935** more, on average, than did challengers.

In legislative races, the incumbent candidates raised **\$17,640** more, on average, than did the challengers.



Winners of statewide races raised, on average, **\$85,530** more than did losers of the general election and **\$466,800** more, on average, than did the primary election losers.

The legislative winners raised, on average, **\$15,760** more than did the general election losers and **\$35,780** more, on average, than did the primary election losers.



PARTY RECEIPTS	Republican	Democrat	3rd Party	TOTAL
Statewide	\$4,061,334	\$3,897,562	\$3,697	\$7,962,594
Legislative	\$5,175,103	\$2,404,041	\$0	\$7,579,144
TOTAL	\$9,236,437	\$6,301,603	\$3,697	\$15,541,737

The table below shows the average amount candidates in each party received in contributions. Democratic candidates in statewide races raised almost twice as much on average as did Republican candidates. However, in legislative races, Republican candidates raised about twice as much on average as did Democratic candidates. Consequently, Democrats won **five** of the **six** statewide seats and Republicans won **55%** of the legislative seats.

PARTY AVERAGES	Republican	Democrat	3rd Party
Statewide	\$369,212	\$556,795	\$924
Legislative	\$41,735	\$21,855	\$0
TOTAL	\$68,418	\$53,860	\$924

(The total dollars used for this analysis, **\$15,541,737** , excludes money raised by candidates in the 1998 election cycle that did not run. Many of these candidates were incumbents with an open committee that continued to collect contributions for the 2000 races. Money that fell into this category totaled **\$506,589** .)

Of the 132 races in Iowa in 1998, the candidate raising the most money won **86%** of the time. Only 18 candidates won without the monetary advantage.

Of the 109 races in which an incumbent was running against challengers, incumbent candidates won **75%** of the time. And, 27 candidates won without the advantage that comes with incumbency.

Only 14 candidates in 132 statewide and legislative races won with neither incumbency nor the most money, while **89%** of all winning candidates in Iowa had at least one or both of these advantages.

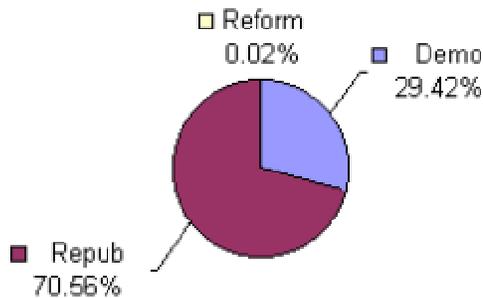
WHO GIVES?

The source of funds, by economic sector, is shown in the graph below. The total in contributions for 1998 was **\$15,541,737**. Of that total, **\$4.2** million could not be categorized by the economic or political affiliation of the contributor.

SECTOR	1998 TOTAL \$	% of 1998 TOTAL
Political Parties	\$3,245,934	28.59%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	\$1,520,781	13.40%
Labor	\$793,998	6.99%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$774,622	6.82%
Construction	\$766,590	6.75%
Communication & Electronics	\$629,592	5.55%
Miscellaneous Business	\$550,126	4.85%
Agriculture	\$476,045	4.19%
Balance Forward	\$457,992	4.03%
Health	\$456,827	4.02%
Resource Development	\$375,777	3.31%
Ideology	\$370,866	3.27%
Other (Non-Business)	\$321,617	2.83%
Transportation	\$319,691	2.82%
Small Contributions	\$288,582	2.54%
Defense	\$2,450	0.02%
TOTAL	\$11,351,491	100.00%

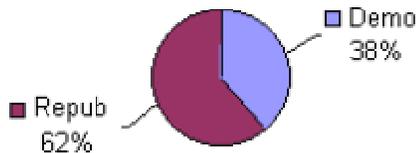
The following pie charts show the percentage that each sector contributed to candidates, broken down by the candidates political affiliation.

**Party Contributions
\$3,245,934**



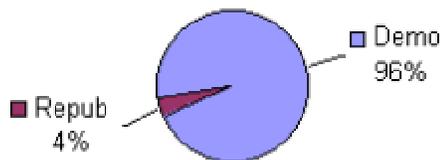
This category contains contributions from candidates, political party PACs, and party leadership committees. Republican candidates received more than two-thirds of these contributions, **\$2.3** million. Democratic candidates received more than **\$955,000** from party sources. Reform party candidates gave **\$717** to their own campaigns.

**Finance, Insurance & Real Estate
Contributions \$1,520,781**



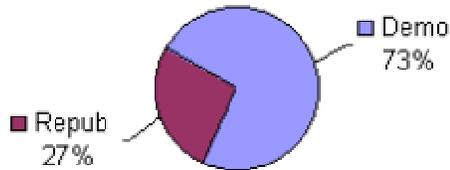
The business sector with the largest share of contributions represents finance, insurance and real estate. Here, too, Republicans received almost two-thirds of the sectors contributions, **\$938,700**. Democrats received **\$582,000**. The single largest contributor in this sector was the Iowa Realtors PAC, which gave **\$75,385**.

Labor Contributions \$793,998

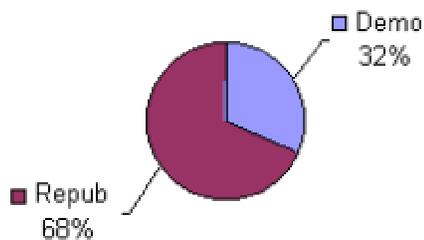


Labor contributions were made almost exclusively to Democrats. Only 4%, or **\$31,760**, was given to Republican candidates. The largest contributor in this sector was the Iowa State Education Association, which gave **\$161,702**. The second largest contributor was the Iowa Council 61 of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, which gave **\$98,003**.

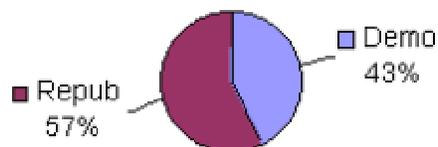
**Lawyers & Lobbyists
Contributions \$774,622**



**Construction Contributions
\$776,590**



**Communications & Electronics
Contributions \$629,592**

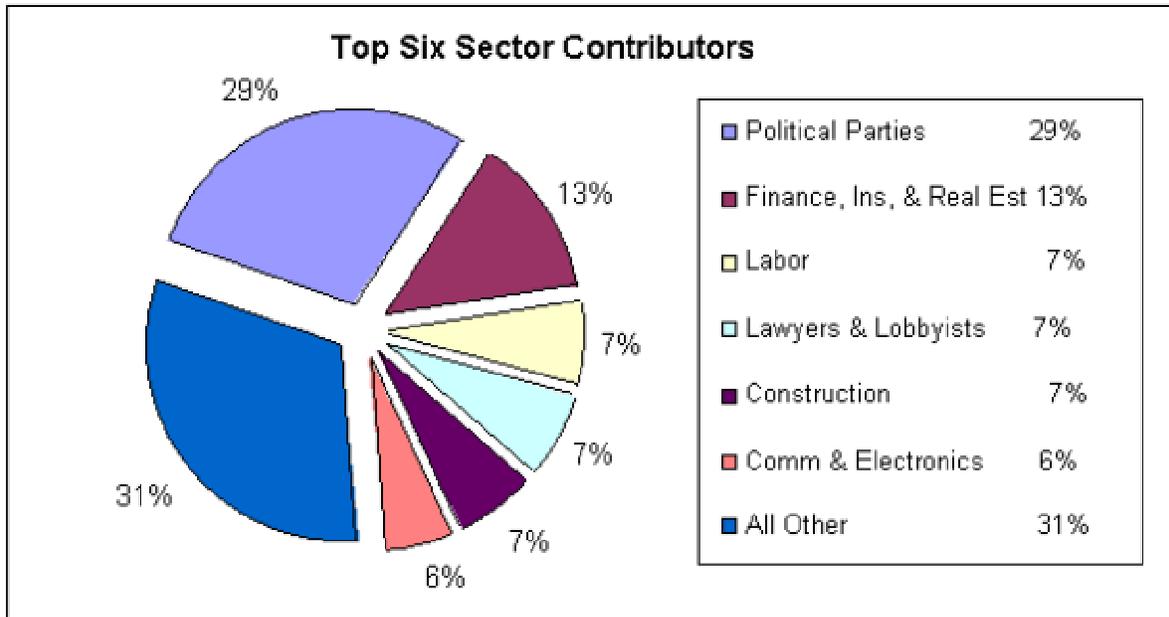


Almost three-quarters of the contributions from lawyers and lobbyists were given to Democrats. Democratic candidates received **\$567,600** and the Republican candidates received **\$207,000**. The largest contributor in this sector was Justice for All (Trial Lawyers) PAC with **\$121,650**. The second largest giver was the Iowa Law PAC, which gave **\$60,935**.

Over 2/3 of the contributions from the construction sector, **\$522,948**, went to Republican candidates. Democratic candidates received **\$253,642**. The largest contributor of this sector was the Associated General Contractors of Iowa PAC, which gave **\$185,220**. The second largest contributor was the Master Builders of Iowa PAC giving **\$78,012**.

The communications and electronics sector was another strong supporter of Republican candidates. Two individuals were the largest-giving contributors in this sector. Richard McCormick, past US West chairman, gave **\$152,000**, all to his brother, Mark McCormick, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate. Clark McCleod of McLeodUSA Inc. gave **\$130,400**. The Iowa Telephone Association PAC was a distant third, giving **\$37,900**.

The pie chart below depicts data from the table on page 4 in a graph. The category All Other comprises the other 10 sectors in that table and excludes the \$4.2million in unknowns. Of the 16 economic sectors, the top six sectors gave **68%** of the 1998 total contributions.



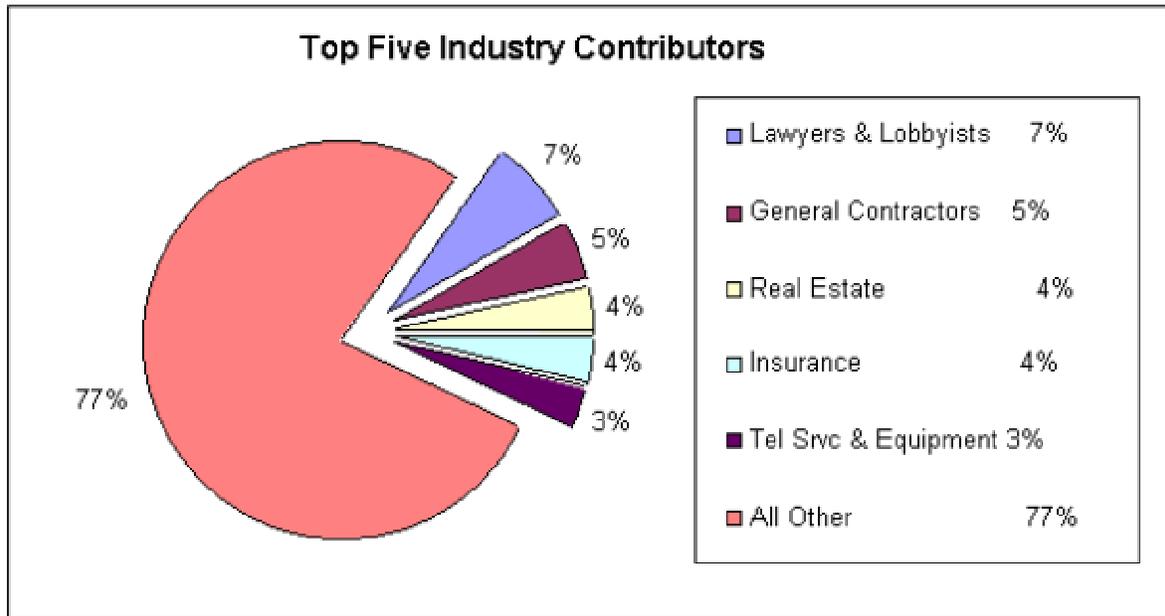
The sectors the Institute uses to help identify contributors economic interest are subdivided into specific industries. For example, the Finance, Insurance & Real Estate sector includes many separate industries: accounting, banking, real estate, securities and investment, etc.

The table of top 10 industries shows the total contributed, and what percentage of the 1998 total those contributions were. This table excludes political party money and contributions by contributors whose economic or political affiliation the Institute could not identify.²

Top 10 INDUSTRIES	TOTAL \$	% of 1998 TOTAL \$
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$774,622	6.8%
General Contractors	\$540,555	4.8%
Real Estate	\$439,206	3.9%
Insurance	\$411,229	3.6%
Telecom Services & Equipment	\$394,102	3.5%
Trade Unions/General	\$380,166	3.3%
Tax Issues	\$310,076	2.7%
Health Professionals	\$300,604	2.6%
Public Sector Unions	\$297,640	2.6%
Banks & Lending Institutions	\$204,336	1.8%
TOTAL	\$4,052,535	35.7%

The chart below displays the percentage of 1998 contributions that were given by the top five industry contributors. These five industries together accounted for **23%** of all 1998 contributions.

The category all other is made up of the 104 other different industries that gave **77%** of 1998 contributions and includes political party contributions but does not include \$4.2 million in unknowns.



The table below lists the top 10 contributors and their total contributions. This list excludes contributions from candidates, political parties and political party PACs. In Iowa, the top 10 individuals or organizations contributed **12%** of the total.

TOP 10 CONTRIBUTORS	INDUSTRY	TOTAL \$
TAXPAYERS UNITED	Tax Issues	\$304,216
ASSOC GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF IA PAC	General Contractors	\$185,220
IA STATE EDUCATION ASSN PAC (ISEA PAC)	Education	\$161,702
MCCORMICK, RICHARD D	Telecom Services & Equipment	\$152,500
MCLEOD, CLARK E	Telecom Services & Equipment	\$130,400
JUSTICE FOR ALL (TRIAL LAWYERS) PAC	Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$121,650
IA INDUSTRY PAC	Business Associations	\$100,226
AFSCME/IA COUNCIL 61	Public Sector Unions	\$98,003
MASTER BUILDERS OF IA PAC	General Contractors	\$78,012
IA FARM BUREAU FED PAC	Farm Bureau	\$77,951
TOTAL		\$1,409,880

Iowa law prohibits contributions by corporations and anonymous parties. Otherwise, the state has no limits on how much may be given, how many times contributions are made or by whom. No regulations exist for accumulated campaign funds, or war chests, except for provisions regarding the dissolution of a committee. ³

^[1]Patty Judge, elected to Senate District 46 in 1996, won the race for Secretary of Agriculture in 1998.

^[2]Unknown contributions for the 1998 Iowa database total **\$4,190,247** . The party money total is **\$3,245,934** .

^[3]Money & Politics Iowa newsletter Volume 2, Issue 3; July, 1999.