



Money in Politics Research Action Project

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Fundraising for Medical Liability Reform Signature-Gathering Campaign Dwarfs Other Signature-Gathering Efforts

In their effort to place limits on medical malpractice awards on the November 2004 ballot, doctors have raised \$1.6 million, nearly 10 times the amount of the next largest signature-gathering PAC.

Contributions to the medical liability reform effort illustrate the continuing domination of signature-gathering fundraising by a few political players. The top four givers donated \$939,710 for initiative petition #85 (medical liability reform)—nearly two-thirds of all of the money raised for that signature-gathering effort. The top 10 donors to all of the PACs gave \$1,315,024, which is 64.7 percent of all of the money raised for signature gathering to date.

By contrast, in 2002, 17 PACs reported raising a total of \$644,264 through the first two disclosure periods to gather signatures for the 2002 November ballot. That's about one-third of the \$2,031,466 that 11 PACs have reported for the parallel period this election cycle.

Chart 1: Top 10 Contributors to Initiative Petition Committees (for November 2004 Ballot)¹

Contributor	Petition ²	\$ ³	% ⁴
Kaiser Permanente	85	\$250,000	
Mid-Valley Independent Practice Association, Inc	85	\$250,000	
Oregon Medical Association	85	\$239,710	
Oregon Anesthesiology Group, PC	85	\$200,000	
Wild Salmon Center (The)	65	\$149,564	
Douglas Medical Clinic, PC	85	\$70,000	
Northwest Physicians Mutual Insurance Company	85	\$50,000	
Salem Clinic, PC	85	\$45,750	
ADEC, Inc.	36	\$30,000	
Seneca Jones Timber Co	36	\$30,000	
Subtotal, Top 10 Givers To Initiative Petition Campaigns		\$1,315,024	64.7%
Total Giving to 2004 Initiative Petition Campaigns		\$2,031,466	

¹ Data could change due to amendments or auditing.

² See Chart 2 for Petition numbers, PAC officers, and Initiative Subject.

³ Includes Cash, In Kind and Loans, as reported on PC2 forms.

⁴ Percentage of the total giving to all 11 initiative petition PACs as of February 6, 2004.

Contributions of \$200 or less, often considered an indicator of grassroots support, accounted for only 4.2 percent of all giving to signature-gathering PACs for the reporting period.

The ballot language of Medical Liability Reform (petition #85) remains before the Oregon Supreme Court and has not yet been approved for circulation. That has not stopped backers from raising more than \$1.6 million, largely from physicians and other medical interests. Medical businesses, such as Kaiser Permanente and Northwest Physicians Mutual Insurance Company and Neonatal Specialists PC, account for 81.7 percent (or \$1,309,710) of the money raised; 509 individuals gave the virtually of the remaining money (with \$905 coming in the form of miscellaneous cash contributions of \$50 or less). The average donor gave \$2614 to the effort. More than 99.5 percent of the money came from Oregon sources.

Other initiative efforts are not immune from the influence of a few large donors. The Wild Salmon Center, an Oregon-based “international nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Pacific salmon, steelhead, char and trout stocks and their ecosystems,” has put forward 90.4 percent of the funding for the Tillamook 50-50 Plan (petition #65). They list 28 foundations and reference individual donors on their website.

Five donors gave 81.5 percent of the money to the Measure Requiring Compensation for Regulations Taking Value of Property. They include ADEC, Inc., Seneca Jones Timber Co., Freres Lumber Co., Inc., Columbia Helicopter/Wes Lematta and Oregonians in Action.

Kristina Wilfore, who follows initiative trends as executive director for the non-partisan, Washington, DC-based Ballot Initiative Strategy Center and Foundation, has seen increased interest in limiting medical malpractice awards at the ballot box. Texas passed a measure in 2003 to limit damage awards. A measure that would further restrict medical malpractice suits in Nevada has qualified for 2004. Similar efforts have been launched in Arizona and Florida.

“The proposals differ— but the essence of each of them is to shift the blame for the rising cost of medical care from insurance companies to trial lawyers and consumers with frivolous lawsuits,” said Wilfore.

Signature-gathering PACs must submit periodic disclosure reports if they raise or spend more than \$2000 in a period. Only 11 PACs have reached the mandated threshold. (The Secretary of State’s office has qualified five additional petitions for circulation, but those PACs have not reached the \$2000 threshold.)

Chart 2: Fundraising Totals by Signature-Gathering Effort⁵

Petition	Subject	Chief Petitioners	Contributions on 9/10 Report	Contributions on 2/6 Report	Total to Date
13	Requires Construction of Two Segments of Limited Access Expressway Between the State Port of Coos Bay and the I-84 Port of Entry on the Oregon/Idaho Border	John Shank Joseph H. Glide Wayne F. Johnston	\$7131	\$330	\$7461
15	The Judicial Reform Act	Lon T. Mabon Robert F. Ekstrom	\$3972	\$2256	\$6228
16	The Student	Lon T. Mabon	\$11,563	\$7856	\$19,419

⁵ Data could change due to amendments or auditing; includes Cash, In Kind and Loans, as reported on PC2 forms.

Petition	Subject	Chief Petitioners	Contributions on 9/10 Report	Contributions on 2/6 Report	Total to Date
	Protection Act III	Robert F. Ekstrom Jeremy Bowen			
17	The Divine Sovereignty Life Amendment	Lon T. Mabon Robert F. Ekstrom Jeremy Bowen	\$4053	\$1885	\$5938
20	The Citizens' Term Limits Restoration Act	Anna Leigh Foxall Paul R. Farago Ted Piccolo	\$9822	\$3048	\$12,870
31	OMMA2 (Medical Marijuana)	Kenneth Scott Brown John A. Sajo Edward Glick	\$12,183	\$10,682	\$22,865
36	Measure Requiring Compensation for Regulations Taking Value of Property	Eugene Prete Barbara Prete Dorothy English	Not required	\$152,846	\$152,846
53	Oregon Campaign Finance Reform	Lloyd Marbet Sarah Charlesworth Harry Lonsdale	\$12,227	\$8793	\$21,020
56	Oregon Forest Restoration Initiative	Gary A. Kutcher	Not required	\$14,936	\$14,936
65	Tillamook 50-50 Plan	Mari Anne Gest Robert Rees Steven McGeady	Not required	\$165,436	\$165,436
85	Medical Liability Reform	Andris Antoniskis Raymond N. Englander Katherine Merrill	Not required	\$1,602,448	\$1,602,448

Chart 3: Top Five Donors to 2004 Signature-Gathering PACs⁶

Petition	Subject	Contributor	Amount/Percentage
13	Requires Construction of Two Segments of Limited Access Expressway Between the State Port of Coos Bay and the I-84 Port of Entry on the Oregon/Idaho Border	RoadPAC, Coos Bay	\$6626/88.8%
		Michael Stewart	\$200/2.7%
		Greendores Grange	\$115/1.5%
		Olive R. Drahos, Ed Luttrell	\$100/1.3% (each)
15	The Judicial Reform Act	Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$50 or less	\$2180/35.0%
		OCA-PAC	\$1166/18.7%
		New Covenant Ministries	\$998/16.0%
		BJM Technical Support	\$500/8.0%
		John Fox	\$390/6.3%
16	The Student Protection Act III	Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$50 or less	\$7878/40.6%
		New Covenant Ministries	\$999/5.1%
		OCA-PAC	\$763/3.9%
		John Fox	\$350/1.8%
		Lon Mabon, DE Rogers	\$250/1.3% (each)

⁶ Data could change due to amendments or auditing; includes Cash, In Kind and Loans, as reported on PC2 forms.

Petition	Subject	Contributor	Amount/Percentage
17	The Divine Sovereignty Life Amendment	Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$50 or less	\$1278/21.5%
		New Covenant Ministries	\$966/16.8%
		OCA-PAC	\$914/15.4%
		BJM Technical Support	\$500/8.4%
		John Fox	\$330/5.6%
20	The Citizens' Term Limits Restoration Act	US Term Limits	\$10,400/80.8%
		People for Piccolo	\$2372/18.4%
		Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$50 or less	\$50/0.4%
		Paul Farago	\$48/0.4%
31	OMMA2 (Medical Marijuana)	Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$50 or less	\$8933/39.1%
		James Klahr	\$600/2.6%
		Zaki Kahl, Dr. Richard Bayer, Donald Walker	\$500/2.2% (each)
36	Measure Requiring Compensation for Regulations Taking Value of Property	Seneca Jones Timber Co.	\$30,000/19.6%
		ADEC, Inc.	\$30,000/19.6%
		Columbia Helicopters/Wes Lematta	\$30,000/19.6%
		Oregonians in Action	\$19,526/12.8%
		Freres Lumber Co., Inc.	\$15,000/9.8%
53	Oregon Campaign Finance Reform	Harry Lonsdale	\$10,000/47.6%
		Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$50 or less	\$2829/13.5%
		Bill Boyer	\$2000/9.5%
		William D. Michtom	\$1500/7.1%
		David Delk	\$840/4.0%
56	Oregon Forest Restoration Initiative	Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$50 or less	\$12,936/86.6%
		Sustainable Forestry Project	\$2000/13.4%
65	Tillamook 50-50 Plan	The Wild Salmon Center	\$149,564/90.4%
		Miscellaneous Cash Contributions of \$50 or less	\$3094/1.9%
		Karen Garst	\$1072/0.6%
		Bruce Ackerman	\$1000/0.6%
		Art Kayser	\$1000/0/6%
85	Medical Liability Reform	Mid-Valley Independent Practice Association, Inc.	\$250,000/15.6%
		Kaiser Permanente	\$250,000/15.6%
		Oregon Medical Association	\$239,710/15.0%
		Oregon Anesthesiology Group, PC	\$200000/12.5%
		Douglas Medical Clinic, PC	\$70,000/4.4%

Note: All data compiled by the Money in Politics Research Action Project from reports filed with the Secretary of State. Figures could change due to amendments or auditing. Kristina Wilfore can be reached at 202/223-2373.

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