



## Money in Politics Research Action Project

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### Heavy Hitters on Opposite Sides of Tax Credit Debate Collect Cash from Mirror-Image Donors

A look at the top political fundraising groups on each side of the legislative tax debate offers a stark contrast between small- and large-donor PACs and their roles in public policy.

On one side stand the 45,000 members of the Oregon Education Association (OEA) whose PAC, People for Improvement of Education (PIE), raised nearly all (99.4%) of its 2002 political dollars from teacher members who gave \$200 or less during either the primary or general election reporting periods. (These contributions are separate from membership dues and requests for contributions are made annually.) PIE PAC received one contribution of \$313 from an individual and three contributions \$2,844 from OEA itself during the 2002 election reporting periods.

The Center for Citizen Leadership (CCL), the PAC of Associated Oregon Industries (AOI), raised nearly all of its money (97.9%) in contributions of \$1000 or more. Its largest contributor was AOI, which gave \$198,879 to CCL. (Details provided in chart 1.)

"These two PACs are major contributors to Oregon candidates, but a complete analysis looks at who gave the money to these political committees," says Janice Thompson, executive director of the Money in Politics Research Action Project. "OEA's PAC is made of many 'little guy' donors putting their money together while AOI's PAC is dominated by 'big guy' contributors," continues Thompson. (Contributors to these and other key PACs are at summarized at:<http://www.oregonfollowthemoney.org/Giving/contribs.htm>.)

The parent groups of these two PACs, AOI and OEA, often find themselves on opposite sides of tax issues. For example, during the current legislative session the Revenue Coalition, whose membership includes the OEA, testified against a bill put forward at the request of the AOI, HB 2506, which would expand a research and development tax credit.

"Polling indicates that people draw a line between political contributions and legislative influence--as well they should. At the same time, by following the money, we can see that sometimes the difference between two PAC contributions of, say, \$1000, is the number of voices behind the dollars," summarized Thompson.

(more)

*MiPRAP analysis uses a database compiled from contribution and expenditure reports filed with the Secretary of State's office and includes direct and in-kind contributions.*

Chart 1 - Analysis of 2002 Contributions to Two Major PACs  
 OEA's People for Improvement of Education and AOI's Center for Citizen Leadership

Size of Contribution Categories - #s, \$s, contribution average, and %s		OEA's People for Improvement for Education Total 2002 fundraising = \$549,287	AOI's Center for Citizen Leadership Total 2002 fundraising = \$412,769
<b>\$50 or less</b>	# of contributors	estimated 18,107*	estimated 47*
	Amount contributed in this contribution range	\$452,674	\$1,090
	Contribution average	assumed \$25*	assumed \$25*
	% of total fundraising	82.4%	0.26%
<b>\$50.01-\$200</b>	# of contributors	estimated 748**	estimated 31**
	Amount contributed in this contribution range	\$93,456	\$3,850
	Contribution average	assumed \$125**	assumed \$125**
	% of total fundraising	17%	0.93%
<b>\$200.01-\$999.99</b>	# of contributors	1	7
	Amount contributed in this contribution range	\$313	\$3450
	Contribution average	\$313	\$493
	% of total fundraising	0.06%	0.8%
<b>\$1,000 or larger</b>	# of contributors	1	33
	Amount contributed in this contribution range	\$2,844	\$404,379
	Contribution average	\$2,844	\$12,254
	% of total fundraising	0.52%	97.9%
<b>All Contributions</b>	# of contributors	18,857***	118***
	Contribution average	\$29	\$3,498
	Largest contribution	\$2,844 From Oregon Education Association to its People for Improvement of Education PAC	\$198,879 From Associated Oregon Industries to its Center for Citizen Leadership PAC

\*Number of contributors estimated based on assumption that average contribution in the \$50 or under contribution category size is \$25.

\*\*Number of contributors estimated based on assumption that average contribution in the \$51 to \$200 contribution size category is \$125.

\*\*\*Derived from estimates of number of contributors based aggregated amounts of dollars raised, as outlined above.

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