



Money in Politics Research Action Project

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Liberty Northwest Contributions are 20 Percent of Total Ballot Measure Fundraising Timber Interests Are Major Players in Three Ballot Measures

For Immediate Release:

October 27, 2004

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One out of every five dollars given to the 11 main ballot measure committees comes from Liberty Northwest. This private competitor to SAIF, also funded the signature gathering effort resulting in Measure 38 to eliminate the state-owned workers compensation company. (See Charts 1 and 3)

"It is troubling to see the ballot measure process used for such a single-focused effort by a group that can muster essentially no allies to make campaign contributions to their effort," says Janice Thompson, executive director of the Money in Politics Research Action Project.

Timber interests are top donors to three ballot measure campaigns, primarily focusing on defeating ballot measure 34, which would change management of two state forests. Several timber companies are also top donors to the "yes on 37" effort to require government payments to property owners facing land use regulations. Lumber companies and a top timber industry group are major donors to the committee to defeat measure 38. (See Chart 3.)

Chart 1: Contributions to Both Sides of November 2004 Ballot Measures¹

BM	"Yes" Campaigns				"No" Campaigns				\$ Leader (Yes or No)	
	PAC(s)	BCB ¹	Total 1 st and 2 nd Report \$ ²	Total	PAC(s)	BCB	Total 1 st and 2 nd Report \$ ²	Total		
33	Life With Dignity Committee, A	\$8,888	\$493,505	\$502,393	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
34	Yes on 34	\$2,587	\$393,941	\$396,528	Alliance to Keep Our State Forests Working	\$0	\$2,657,221	\$2,657,221	No	
35	Oregonians for Quality, Affordable and Reliable Health Care	\$3,072,013	\$1,807,516	\$4,879,529	Coalition for Real Insurance Reform	\$979,632	\$1,458,720	\$2,438,352	Yes	
36	Defense Of Marriage Coalition PAC	\$24,147	\$1,693,713	\$1,717,860	No on Constitutional Amendment 36	\$0	\$2,532,455	\$2,532,455	No	
37	Family Farm Preservation PAC	\$264,991	\$632,859	\$897,850	No on 37 Take a Closer Look Committee	\$0	\$2,421,384	\$2,421,384	No	
38	Oregonians for Accountability	\$13,808	\$5,368,977	\$5,382,785	Committee for Saif Keeping	\$10,888	\$2,507,558	\$2,518,446	Yes	
Total "Yes" Campaign Contributions				\$13,783,027	Total "No" Campaign Contributions				\$12,567,859	
Total Ballot Measure Campaign Contributions on 1 st and 2 nd Reports = \$26,350,886										

¹ Beginning Cash Balance, or total cash the PAC had on hand at the beginning of the reporting period.

² Data based on disclosure reports filed with the Secretary of State's office on September 27, and October 21, 2004. Numbers may change due to auditing and amendments.

Overall fundraising for ballot measure campaigns are over \$26 million, with the money fairly evenly split between "yes" and "no" campaigns overall. Comparing "yes" and "no" fundraising on each ballot measure question reveals varying levels of financial competitiveness.

Only two of the fundraising underdogs are struggling to keep up, having raised between 50 and 75 percent of their opponents' money. Two other fundraising races are lopsided, with the underdogs having raised more than 25 and less than 50 percent of their opponent's total dollars. Having raised only 15 percent of their opponents total, the proponents of measure 34, which would change how some state forests are managed, remains drowned out. The medical marijuana campaign is not facing an opposition PAC. (See Chart 2 for details.)

The disparity in fundraising is troubling, but the large amounts of money on both sides of several issues are the real issue. "Several of the 2004 measure match ups have attracted deep-pocketed interests on both sides in a way that we haven't seen recently," commented Sarah Wetherson, research and outreach associate with the Money in Politics Research Action Project.

Chart 2: Fundraising Differences between "Yes" and "No" Campaigns¹

BM	Difference between Total "Yes" and "No" Contribution Totals	Underdog Percentage of Opposition Fundraising (underdog side)	"Yes" Campaign				"No" Campaign			
			Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less		Top 10 Contributors		Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less		Top 10 Contributors	
			\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
33	N/A	N/A	\$2192	0.4%	\$492,698	99.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
34	\$2,260,693	(yes) 14.9%	\$2809	0.7%	\$370,000	93.9%	\$10983	0.4%	\$1,861,863	70.1%
35	\$2,441,177	(no) 50.0%	\$6160	0.3%	\$1,155,362	63.9%	\$1410	0.1%	\$757,500	51.9%
36	\$814,595	(yes) 67.8%	\$370,035	21.8%	\$827,803	48.9%	\$189,778	7.5%	\$1,416,601	55.9%
37	\$1,523,734	(yes) 37.1%	\$145	<0.1%	\$480,000	75.8%	\$47,425	2.0%	\$1,531,785	63.3%
38	\$2,864,339	(no) 46.8%	\$0	0.0%	\$5,368,977	100%	\$6093	0.2%	\$1,764,708	70.4%

¹ Data based on disclosure reports filed with the Secretary of State's office on September 27 and October 21, 2004. Numbers may change due to auditing and amendments.

Most of the campaigns on both sides of the measures rely on a few contributors for their cash. Of the 11 campaigns, eight have raised 60 percent or more of their money from 10 or fewer donors. Only one, Defense of Marriage Committee, has raised more than 10 percent of its money from miscellaneous donors giving \$50 or less. The role of small contributions is summarized in Chart 2.

Liberty Northwest continues to be the overwhelming driving force behind measure 38, which would abolish rival insurance provider SAIF, contributing all but less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the money raised to pass the measure. On the "yes" side of the Medical Marijuana campaign, the Marijuana Policy Project gave 97 percent of the money the campaign raised.

"Unlike candidate elections, initiatives are put on the ballot without any party affiliations or ideological cues, so it is especially helpful to voters to know about campaign contributions, especially when there is such a narrow base of support in what was intended to be a grassroots process," summarized Sarah Wetherson, of MiPRAP.

Chart 3: Top 10 Contributors to Each Side of Measures on the November 2004 Ballot

BM	"Yes" Groups and Their Top 10 Contributors	Yea Amount	"No" Groups and Their Top 10 Contributors	Nay Amount
33	Life With Dignity Committee, A	\$493,505	None	N/A
	Marijuana Policy Project: \$476,295 (97%) Voter Power: \$7000 (1.4%) Berkeley Patients Group: \$2500 (<1%) Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less: \$2192 Richard Bayer: \$2150 Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association: \$500 Thomas Zink: \$200 William Bruce Shepley: \$150 James Klahr: \$111 16 contributions of \$100 each.		N/A	N/A

BM	"Yes" Groups and Their Top 10 Contributors	Yea Amount	"No" Groups and Their Top 10 Contributors	Nay Amount
34	Yes on 34	\$393,941	Alliance to Keep Our State Forests Working	\$2,265,221
	Stone Gossard: \$200,000 (51%) Wild Salmon Center \$80,000 (20%) Audubon Society of Portland: \$30,000 (8%) Michael Burmeister-Brown, Richard Koe and Bill Lazar: \$10,000 (3%) each Robert Adams, Yvon Chouinard, Peter Goldman, Elizabeth Jennings, Jim Mundell and Guido Rahr Jr.: \$5000 (1%) each		Hampton Lumber Sales Company: \$397,429 (15%) Stimson Lumber Company \$320,139 (12%) RSG Forest Products, Inc: \$283,716 (11%) Roseburg Forest Products: \$208,285 (8%) Boise Cascade Corporation: \$180,557 (7%) Oregon Forest Industry Council: \$120,023 (5%) Weyerhaeuser: \$103,741 (4%) Swanson Group, Inc: \$86,739 (3%) Seneca Jones Timber Co.: \$83,997 (3%) Longview Fibre Co: \$77,236 (3%).	
35	Oregonians for Quality, Affordable And Reliable Health Care	\$1,807,516	Coalition for Real Insurance Reform	\$1,458,720
	Hospitals for Liability Fairness PAC: \$375,921 (21%) Pfizer: \$150,000 (8%) Providence and Legacy Health Systems and OHSU Foundation: \$100,000 (6%) each Oregon Medical Association: \$81,879 (5%) Mid Rogue Independent Physician Association: \$75,000 (4%) Douglas Medical Clinic PC: \$70,000 (4%) Yes on 81 Committee Inc.: \$52,562 (3%) Oregon Health Care Association: \$50,000 (3%)		Lawrence and Peggy Jo Wobbrock: \$125,000 (8.6%) Richard M. Rogers and Oregon Trial Lawyers Association: \$100,000 (7%) each Paulson Law Firm/Charles Paulson: \$82,500 (6%) Gaylord Eyeran Bradley PC,/William Gaylord and Linda Eyeran, Swanson Thomas & Coon and Tichenor & Dziuba LLP: \$75,000 (5%) each Gatti & Gatti Law Firm PC: \$55,000 (4%) Greg Smith: \$40,000 (3%) Association of Trial Lawyers of America PAC: \$30,000 (2%)	
36	Defense Of Marriage Coalition PAC	\$1,693,713	No On Constitutional Amendment 36	\$2,532,455
	Christian Copyright Licensing International \$410,000 (24%) Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less: \$370,035 (22%) Gateway Communications: \$120,439 (7%) Neil Nedelisky: \$100,000 (6%) Focus on the Family: \$78,364 (5%) Rolling Hills Community Church: \$31,000 (2%) Dr. John Templeton: \$25,000 (2%) James Bisenius: \$22,000 (1%) Bob Bobosky and Mt. Olivet Baptist Church: \$15,000 (<1%) each Steve Scheidler: \$11,000		National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: \$659,858 (26%) Human Rights Campaign: \$275,000 (11%) Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less: \$189,778 (8%) Tim Gill: \$150,000 (6%) Robert W. Wilson: \$100,000 (4%) Basic Rights Education Fund/Basic Rights Measure PAC 2002: \$84,243 (3%) Planned Parenthood and Log Cabin Republicans: \$40,000 (2%) each Oregon Education Association: \$37,500 (2%) Planned Parenthood Health Services SW Oregon: \$30,000 (1%)	
37	Family Farm Preservation PAC	\$632,859	No On 37 Take a Closer Look Committee	\$2,421,384
	Seneca Jones Timber Co.: \$113,000 (18%) RSG Forest Products Inc. and Swanson Group Inc.: \$50,000 (8%) each Jeld-Wen Foundation and Wes Lematta/Columbia Helicopters: \$45,000 (7%) Bill McCormick: \$37,000 (6%) Rosboro Lumber Co.: \$35,000 (6%) Stimson Lumber Co.: \$30,000 (5%) each. Arlie & Company, C&D Lumber Co. and Donna Woolley: \$25,000 (4%) each.		Eric D Lemelson: \$500,500 (21%) League of Conservation Voters: \$275,000 (11%) Oregon Education Association, Oregon AFSCME Council 75, Edmund Hayes and John Gray: \$100,000 (4%) each 1000 Friends of Oregon: \$97,785 (4%) The Partnership Project Inc.: \$90,000 (4%) Dorothy Lemelson Trust: \$85,000 (4%) The Nature Conservancy: \$83,500 (3%)	
38	Oregonians for Accountability	\$5,368,977	Committee for Saif Keeping	\$2,507,558
	Liberty Northwest: \$5,352,854 (99.7%) Property Casualty Insurers: \$10,000 (<1%) Ashforth Pacific: \$4623 Committee to Elect Tom Butler, Oregon Citizens for a Sound Economy, and Oregon Restaurant Association: \$500 each.		Associated General Contractors of America Inc.: \$1,086,654 (43%) Associated Oregon Loggers Inc.: \$387,554 (16%) AGC Committee for Action: \$100,000 (4%) Hamilton Construction Company: \$50,000 (2%) Oregon Beverage PAC: \$30,000 (1%) Stimson Lumber Company and Weyerhaeuser: \$25,000 (1%) each Oregon Association of Nurseries: \$20,500 (<1%) Boise Cascade Corporation, and A-DEC: \$20,000	