

Campaign Finance

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Campaigns Cost Money

- It is impossible to run for office in the U.S. without money.
- Candidates for everything from school boards to President need money to run campaigns, rent office space, pay staff, buy advertising.
- Campaigns are run on local, state and federal rules depending on jurisdiction.
- Donations to and expenditures from campaign accounts are public record.

Pay to Play

- **Pay to play**, sometimes **pay for play**, is a phrase used for a variety of situations in which money is exchanged for services or the privilege to engage in certain activities. The common denominator of all forms of **pay to play** is that one must **pay** to "get in the game," with the sports analogy frequently arising.

The basics

- Local elections – you finds reports at County clerk/register of voters, or local jurisdiction, ie city clerk, board clerk, ethics commission.
- State elections – You find reports at Secretary of State. Governor, Legislature, state-wide officers.
- National elections – You find reports at the Federal Election Commission. President, Congress

California

- The basic form is called a **Form 460**.
- It is the same form for candidates for governor to candidates for sewer boards.
- Form 460s are used both during election cycles with various deadlines as an election nears. When elected officials are not in an election cycle, they still have to file a 460 every six months because they are always raising and spending money.

So this stuff is all, like, sunshiney, right?



Well Kinda

Or maybe not
really

David Koch



George Soros



Citizens United

- Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, No. 08-205, 558 U.S. 310, is a U.S. constitutional law and corporate law case dealing with the regulation of campaign spending by organizations.
- Citizens United is a grass-roots conservative political organization. It sued the Federal Election Commission claiming that limits on campaign finance donations are unconstitutional.

Citizens United

The U.S. Supreme Court Agreed in a 5-4 decision. “Associations of people, like individuals, have free speech rights. Because spending money is essential to disseminating speech, limiting a corporation's or a unions ability to spend money is unconstitutional because it limits the ability of its members to associate effectively and to speak on political issues.”

Independent Political Expenditures

- For profit and non-profit corporations can spend unlimited amounts of money to make political statements.
- An independent expenditure is an expenditure for a communication "expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate that is not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's authorized committee, or their agents, or a political party or its agents."

Hillary



Donald



510 (c) (4) & 501 (c) (6)

These organizations can receive unlimited corporate, individual, or union contributions that they do not have to make public.

This is called Dark Money

Dark Money

- **Dark Money** refers to political spending meant to influence the decision of a voter, where the donor is not disclosed and the source of the **money** is unknown. Depending upon the circumstances, **Dark Money** can refer to funds spent by a political nonprofit or a super PAC.

Dark Money

- Political nonprofits are under no legal obligation to disclose their donors. Super PACs can also be considered Dark Money groups in certain situations. While these organizations are legally required to disclose their donors, they can accept unlimited contributions from political non-profits and “shell” corporations who may not have disclosed their donors, in these cases they are considered Dark Money groups.

3,114 Counties in the U.S.



Local entities

- There are **39,044** general purpose local governments in the United States.
- There are **37,381** special districts in the United States.
- There are **15,178** school districts in the United States

The States

Governor – Attorney General – Lt Governor –
Treasurer – Controller – Insurance
Commissioner – Superintendent of Public
Instruction – House member – Senator - Judges

All subject to primary and general elections

Money



Do you think these are free?



Public works contractors



Defense Contractors



Lawyers



Industry



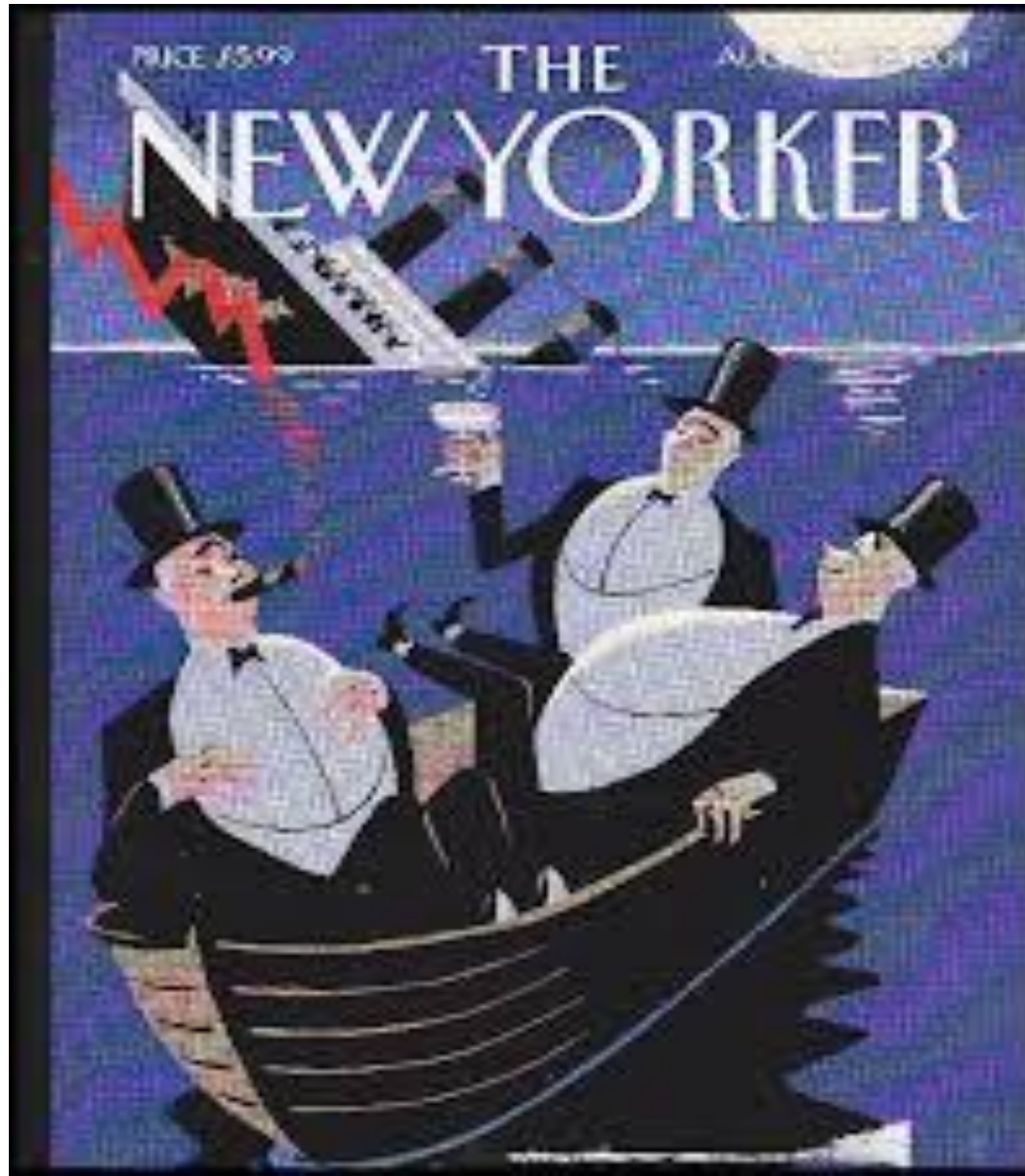
Doctors



Ideologues



And Fat Cats of All Kinds



How do we possibly keep track of it all?



Where do we find reports?

The Federal Election Commission: FEC.GOV

House, Senate, presidential candidates. Pacs and super pac

California: Secretary of State sos.ca.gov State wide offices and legislature

Most other states use either secretary of state or an election commission for online records

Counties, cities, ect?



Campaign finance reports generally list:

- The donor's name
- The donor's address
- The donor's occupation
- The donor's employer
- The date of the donation
- The donation amount
- The total the donor has given in the election cycle

Pitfalls of self reported data

- Names can often be informal – Joe or Joseph?
- Home address? Work address?
- What does occupation really mean?
- How is employer listed?