



THE BURKLE (DIS)CONNECTION

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Bill Clinton — potential first husband and former President — is working to sever financial ties with Yucaipa Cos. and its prolific Democratic fund-raiser, supermarket mogul and billionaire Ron Burkle.¹ Burkle made his fortune turning around failing grocery chains, often with the help of his friendly relationships with politicians and unions. Burkle currently operates several private equity funds through his investment firm, Yucaipa Cos.²

The former President is expected to receive a \$20 million payout from Yucaipa Cos.,³ which includes several domestic funds as well as the Yucaipa Global Fund.⁴ The fund, of which the former President is one of the three owners and a general partner, has ties to the ruler of Dubai. This situation may be of particular concern for the former president’s wife U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton’s bid for presidency. Senator Clinton has stated that foreign wealth funds cause concern because they are lacking in “transparency” and can be “instruments of foreign policy” for foreign governments.⁵

Burkle has made significant contributions to state-level candidates, party committees and ballot measure committees, giving more than \$500,000 since 1999.

Burkle also hosts up to 40 political fund-raisers a year at his Greenacres, Calif., mansion, where he has helped raise \$50 million for the Democratic Party, more than \$1 million for the presidential and senate campaigns of Hillary Clinton. He also hosted a fund-raiser for current New York Gov. Elliot Spitzer.⁶

RECIPIENT TITLE	TOTAL
Ballot Measure Committees	\$225,000
Governor	\$131,200
State Assembly	\$93,300
Other Statewide Offices	\$28,189
Political Party	26,600
State Senate Candidates	\$4,500
TOTAL	\$508,784

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

Forty-four percent of Burkle’s money went to ballot measure committees in two states. In California, Burkle contributed \$100,000 to the Governor Gray Davis Committee in 2003, which

¹ Matthew Mosk, “Bill Clinton Severs Burkle Business Ties,” *Washington Post* Jan. 22, 2008, available from http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/01/22/bill_clinton_severs_burkle_bus.html, accessed Jan. 29, 2008.

² Matthew Miller, The Rise of Ron Burkle, *Forbes.com*, Dec. 11, 2006, http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2006/1211/104_print.html, accessed Jan. 29, 2008.

³ John R. Emshwiller, “Bill Clinton May Get Payout of \$20 Million” Jan. 22, 2008, *Wall Street Journal*, http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120097424021905843.html?mod=googlenews_wsj, accessed Jan. 29, 2008.

⁴ Matthew Mosk, “Bill Clinton Severs Burkle Business Ties,” *Washington Post* Jan. 22, 2008, available from http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/01/22/bill_clinton_severs_burkle_bus.html, accessed Jan. 29, 2008.

⁵ John R. Emshwiller, “Bill Clinton May Get Payout of \$20 Million” Jan. 22, 2008, *Wall Street Journal*, http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120097424021905843.html?mod=googlenews_wsj, accessed Jan. 29, 2008.

⁶ Matthew Miller, The Rise of Ron Burkle, *Forbes.com*, Dec. 11, 2006, http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2006/1211/104_print.html, accessed Jan. 29, 2008.

worked against the 2005 recall of then Gov. Gray Davis, a Democrat. In 2005, Burkle contributed \$100,000 to Governor Schwarzenegger's California Recovery Team. The committee worked on multiple propositions including Proposition 74, a failed amendment that would have increased the amount of time a teacher must wait to become a permanent employee. In 2006, Burkle contributed \$25,000 to an Arizona committee that supported the state's minimum wage increase.

Another 26 percent of Burkle's contributions were focused on gubernatorial candidates in three states. In 2002, Burkle gave \$75,000 to the successful re-election campaign of then Gov. Gray Davis. In 2004, Burkle contributed \$21,200 to Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was not seeking election until 2006.

Burkle also contributed to candidates outside his home state of California, giving to the successful campaigns of two winning Democratic gubernatorial candidates in 2006: \$25,000 to New York Gov. Elliot Spitzer, and \$10,000 to Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell.

In 2000, Burkle focused all of his state legislative giving in the state of California, giving nearly \$100,000. Two state assembly candidates received 77 percent of these funds: \$50,000 going to the successful campaign of Republican Jan Leja, and \$25,000 to the campaign of Democrat Tony West, who lost the primary.

Burkle contributed \$26,600 to the California Democratic Party in 2004.

TOP RECIPIENTS OF BURKLE MONEY, 1999-2006

STATE	YEAR	RECIPIENT	COMMITTEE	TOTAL
CA	2005	Governor Schwarzenegger's California Recovery Team	Ballot	\$100,000
CA	2003	The Governor Gray Davis Committee	Ballot	\$100,000
CA	2002	Davis, Gray	Governor	\$75,000
CA	2000	Leja, Jan	Assembly	\$50,000
CA	2004	California Democratic Party	Party	\$26,600
NY	2004	Spitzer, Eliot L (G)	Governor	\$25,000
AZ	2006	Voteyeson202.Com In Support Of I-13-2006	Ballot	\$25,000
CA	2000	West, Tony	Assembly	\$25,000
CA	2004	Schwarzenegger, Arnold	Governor	\$21,200
PA	2006	Rendell, Ed	Governor	\$10,000
CA	2002	Shelley, Kevin	Secretary of State	\$10,000
CA	2002	Westly, Steve	Controller	\$10,000
			TOTAL	\$477,800