

## SUMMARY OF THE 1998 ALASKA ELECTIONS

By Lucy Vohs  
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### THE MONEY

**Total 1998 Dollars: \$7,523,691**

1998 Primary election dollars: \$4,011,841

1998 General election dollars: \$3,511,850

**Statewide Total: \$3,632,970**  
**\$3,890,722**

Primary total: \$2,076,591

\$1,935,250

General total: \$1,556,379

\$1,955,472

**Legislative Total:**

Primary total:

General total:

### Total Dollars

TOTAL \$	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	General Losers	Primary Losers
Statewide	\$1,376,867	\$2,256,103	\$0	\$1,376,867	\$1,798,191	\$457,911
Legislative	\$1,617,176	\$1,455,016	\$818,529	\$2,095,694	\$1,494,218	\$300,810
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,994,043</b>	<b>\$3,711,119</b>	<b>\$818,529</b>	<b>\$3,472,561</b>	<b>\$3,292,409</b>	<b>\$758,721</b>

### Total Dollars by Party

OFFICE	Democrat	Republican	Third Party	TOTAL \$
Statewide	\$1,383,931	\$2,227,196	\$21,842	\$3,632,970
Legislative	\$1,921,030	\$1,892,267	\$76,925	\$3,890,222
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,304,961</b>	<b>\$4,119,464</b>	<b>\$98,766</b>	<b>\$7,523,191</b>

### THE RACES

In 1998, statewide elections were held for governor and lieutenant governor.

In the primary election, candidates for these offices run separately. The winning candidates then run together as a ticket in the general election. Both seats were contested. Legislative elections also were held for all 40 House seats and 10 of the 20 Senate seats.

Of the 50 legislative elections, one Senate race was open, 11 House races were uncontested and seven House seats were open. Republicans maintained control of the Legislature, winning seven of the eight open seats and seven of the 11 uncontested races. The Democratic candidates for governor and lieutenant governor won re-election by a large margin.

In addition to the 11 uncontested races, six candidates raised less than \$1,000. If these races are included in the calculations, candidates for 17 of the 40 House seats, 42.5 percent, faced no substantial opposition.

	Contested	Uncontested	Total	Open
Statewide	2	0	2	0
Legislative	39	11	50	8
TOTAL	41	11	52	8

### CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

In Alaska, individuals are limited to giving maximum contributions of \$500 to candidates and non-party political action committees (PACs) and to parties or their committees. State parties are limited to contributing \$100,000 to candidates for governor, \$100,000 to candidates for lieutenant governor, \$15,000 to Senate candidates, and \$10,000 to House candidates. Non-party PACs are allowed to contribute \$1,000 to a candidate and party provided that the money comes from individuals. Corporations, unions, associations and other organizations are prohibited from contributing to candidates, PACs and parties, and they cannot make independent expenditures on a candidate's behalf.

### THE CANDIDATES

In 1998, 139 candidates ran for a state office in Alaska. Twenty-one candidates ran for governor or lieutenant governor, with the number of challengers predictably far outnumbering the number of incumbents, 19-2. In the legislative races, 118 people ran for office. The number of challengers, 51, only slightly outnumbered the 42 incumbents. Twenty-five candidates ran for open seats.

CANDIDATES	Republican	Democratic	Third Party	No Party	TOTAL	Incumbents	Challengers
Statewide	7	4	10	0	21	2	19
Legislative	56	54	7	1	118	42	51
TOTAL	63	58	17	1	139	44	70

Major party candidates made up 87 percent of the candidate pool; 45 percent were Republicans and 42 percent were Democrats. The remaining 12 percent of the candidates were from a third party, and one candidate's party is unknown, as he did not declare a party with the Alaska Public Offices Commission.

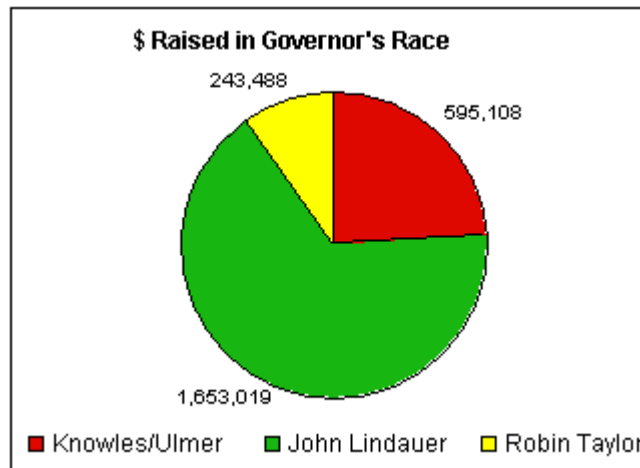
In the House, 25 Republicans and 15 Democrats won their races, creating a large Republican majority. In the Senate the Republican majority was much smaller, however with a proportionally greater result. Six Republicans and four Democrats won their races, giving Republicans a 14-6 majority.

WINNERS	Republican	Democratic	Third Party	Incumbents	Challengers	Open
Statewide	0	2	0	2	0	0
Legislative	31	19	0	38	4	8
TOTAL	31	21	0	40	4	8

### The Governor's Race

The 1998 gubernatorial election included some surprising last-minute changes that affected the election. Heading into the general election, the candidates were incumbent Gov. Tony Knowles and Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer, Democrats; Republican gubernatorial candidate John Lindauer and his running mate, Jerry Ward; Moderate Republican Party candidate Ray Metcalfe and running mate Clyde Baxley; Green Party candidate Erica Jacobsson and running mate Michael Milligan; and Sylvia Sullivan of the Alaska Independent Party, whose running mate withdrew. The incumbent Democrats and Republicans John Lindauer/Jerry Ward were the lead contenders for the offices.

Just a few days before the Nov. 3 election, the Alaska State Republican Party withdrew its support for Lindauer on the grounds that "the former Anchorage businessman lied to them about the sources of his \$1.7 million campaign war chest." In place of Lindauer, GOP leaders endorsed Robin Taylor, who ran as a write-in candidate in the general election.



In total, gubernatorial candidates raised \$3,170,056. The Knowles/Ulmer campaign raised \$595,108 in its successful bid for re-election. John Lindauer raised \$1,653,019, and Robin Taylor raised \$243,488.

### Legislative Races **THE WINNERS**

In the legislative races, the winners raised a total of \$2,095,694 compared to the losing candidates (both primary and general elections combined), who raised a total of \$1,795,028. Republican winners raised a total \$1,217,327, while Democratic winners raised \$878,368. Losing Democratic candidates raised \$1,042,662, while losing Republican candidates raised \$674,941 and unsuccessful third-party candidates raised \$76,925.

In general, candidates for the House raised just under three times the money that candidates for the Senate raised - \$2,853,868 compared to \$1,036,853.

CANDIDATE \$	Total \$	# Candidates	#Winners	#Losers	Avg\$/Candidate	Avg\$/Winner	Avg\$/Loser
House	\$2,853,868	96	50	46	\$29,728	\$32,267	\$26,968
Senate	\$1,036,853	22	10	12	\$47,130	\$48,236	\$46,208
TOTAL LEG	\$3,890,722	118	60	58	\$38,429	\$40,252	\$36,588

Generally, winners raised more money than losers did. House winners raised an average of \$5,299, or 20 percent, more than losing candidates; Senate winners raised an average of \$2,028, or just 4 percent, more than losing candidates did.

	Total \$			Average \$		
	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Avg\$/Incumbent	Avg\$/Challenger	Avg\$/Open
House	\$1,199,635	\$1,024,870	\$629,363	\$36,353	\$24,402	\$29,970
Senate	\$417,541	\$593,516	\$189,166	\$46,393	\$65,946	\$47,292
TOTAL \$	\$1,617,176	\$1,618,385	\$818,529	\$41,373	\$45,174	\$38,631

In most of the races, incumbent candidates raised more money than challengers. However, on average, challengers for the Senate did raise an average of \$65,946 - \$19,553 more than incumbents. Despite this average, only two of the challengers in the 10 Senate races raised more than an incumbent. One challenger, Don Abel, raised \$213,394 to defeat fellow Republican McKie Campbell in the primary election and wage an unsuccessful general election campaign against Democratic incumbent Kim Elton. This amount was by far the largest amount of money raised in the Senate elections in 1998 - nearly \$100,000 above the next highest amount - and skewed the average money raised by Senate challengers. If Don Abel is removed, Senate challengers raised an average of \$27,094, less than 60 percent of the average raised by incumbents.

Thirty-nine of the 50 legislative races, or 78 percent, were won by the candidate who raised the most money. Incumbent candidates also won 39 of 50 races. In total, incumbents or candidates who raised the most money won 46 of the 50 races, or 92 percent. Three of the four remaining races were for open seats.

### TOP \$ RAISERS

In the statewide election for governor and lieutenant governor, John Lindauer by far raised the most money: \$1,653,019. The next highest money raisers were the campaigns of Tony Knowles and Fran Ulmer, whose combined campaigns raised \$1,376,867 - almost \$300,000 less than Lindauer did as a single candidate. While the top 10 money raisers had contributions totaling \$3.6 million, each of the other statewide candidates raised less than \$10,000 for a combined total of \$23,970.

### Top Statewide \$ Raisers

TOP \$ RAISED	Candidate	Party	Office/District	Total \$ Raised
1	John Lindauer	Republican	Governor	\$1,653,019
2	Knowles/Ulmer Campaign	Democratic	Gov/Lt. Governor	\$595,108
3	Tony Knowles	Democratic	Governor	\$481,890
4	Fran Ulmer	Democratic	Lt. Governor	\$299,869
5	Robin Taylor	Republican	Governor	\$243,488
6	Wayne Ross	Republican	Governor	\$167,744
7	Jerry Ward	Republican	Lt. Governor	\$123,431
8	Virginia Collins	Republican	Lt. Governor	\$20,010
9	Doyle Holmes	Republican	Lt. Governor	\$14,872
10	Ray Metcalfe	Moderate	Governor	\$10,417
TOTAL \$				\$3,609,849

In the legislative elections, Don Abel raised the most money, \$213,394, followed by Elizabeth Kerttula at \$138,145. Aside from the top six money-raisers, all other legislative candidates raised less than \$100,000 each.

### Top Legislative \$ Raisers

TOP \$ RAISED	Candidate	Party	Office/District	Total \$ Raised
1	Don Abel	Republican	Senate B	\$213,394
2	Elizabeth Kerttula	Democrat	House 3	\$138,145
3	Kim Elton	Democrat	Senate B	\$116,182
4	Ethan Berkowitz	Democrat	House 13	\$114,806
5	John Clough	Democrat	House 4	\$110,465
6	Lyda Green	Republican	Senate N	\$108,658
TOTAL \$				\$801,650

### WHO GIVES?

SECTOR	Total \$	% of Total \$
Candidate Contributions	\$2,290,333	32.1%
Small Contributions	\$1,073,106	15.0%
Other	\$669,373	9.4%
Political Parties	\$545,559	7.6%
Energy & Natural Resources	\$516,482	7.2%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$324,984	4.6%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$305,442	4.3%
Labor	\$298,053	4.2%
General Business	\$294,447	4.1%
Construction	\$238,574	3.3%
Transportation	\$233,443	3.3%
Communications & Electronics	\$147,109	2.1%
Health	\$132,863	1.9%
Agriculture	\$52,967	less than 1%
Ideology	\$10,275	less than 1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,133,010</b>	

This table breaks down the contributions by various interest groups. It does not include \$390,681 in contributions that could not be categorized into a specific business type.

### **Which Contributors Gave the Most ?**

The top contributors in the Alaska 1998 elections are shown below.

TOP CONTRIBUTORS	INDUSTRY	TOTAL \$
JOHN LINDAUER	Candidate Contributions	\$1,616,651
DEMOCRATIC SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS	Small Contributions	\$1,072,701
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ALASKA	Party	\$141,755
ALASKA DEMOCRATIC PARTY	Party	\$132,682
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE	Party	\$88,500
JOHN CLOUGH	Candidate Contributions	\$88,018
JERRY WARD	Candidate Contributions	\$75,129
DON ABEL	Candidate Contributions	\$61,902
ALASKA FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN	Party	\$46,650
AFSCME/ASEA LOCAL 52	Public Sector Unions	\$39,650
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS	Trade Unions	\$37,250
ALASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 71	Public Sector Unions	\$34,750
VECO CORP	Oil & Gas	\$32,000
TEAMSTERS/ALIVE	Transportation Unions	\$29,500
ANCHORAGE REPUBLICAN WOMENS CLUB	Party	\$26,580
CARE (ALASKA RURAL ELECTRIC)	Electric Utilities	\$26,500
ALASKA GENERAL CONTRACTORS (AGC)	Construction	\$26,000
ELIZABETH KERTTULA	Candidate Contributions	\$24,550
JEANNETTE & MARK J ALLEN	Oil & Gas	\$24,000
ATLANTIC RICHFIELD CO (ARCO)	Oil & Gas	\$22,550
ALASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES UNION (APEA)	Public Sector Unions	\$22,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,669,817</b>

Ten of the top 21 contributors were candidates or political parties. Another nine of these top contributors were political action committees or corporations; in fact, these groups accounted for nine of the top 10 contributors who were not candidates, parties or small contributions. The only individual contributors in the top 10 were Jeannette and Mark J. Allen. Mark Allen is a Veco Corp. executive.

The largest contributor to Democratic candidates was the Alaska Public Employees Union Local 71, which gave \$29,250 of its \$34,750 in contributions - or 84 percent - to 32 Democratic candidates. Seventeen of these candidates won their races, giving the APEU a 53 percent success rate.

The largest contributor to Republican candidates was the Veco Corp., which gave \$26,000 of its \$32,000 in contributions - or 81 percent - to 26 Republican candidates. Twenty-one of these candidates won their races, giving Veco an 81 percent success rate.

### **PARTY PACs ANALYSIS**

State party PACs raised a total of \$576, 211. Democratic Party PACs raised the most money, with the Alaska State Democratic Party raising 76 percent of the total PAC money raised, or \$435,212. Overall, Democratic PACs raised \$538,297 to equal 93 percent of all party PAC money raised.

## Top Party PAC \$ Raised

TOP PAC \$ RAISED	PAC Name	Party	Total \$ Raised
1	Alaska State Democratic Party	Democratic	\$435,212
2	House Democratic Campaign Committee	Democratic	\$87,070
3	Senate Democratic Campaign Committee	Democratic	\$15,315
4	AK Libertarian Ballot Access Committee	Libertarian	\$13,446
5	Republican Party of Asaka	Republican	\$11,000

However, despite the amount of money raised and spent by Democratic Party PACs in Alaska, only 21 candidates won their races in the legislative elections, leaving Democrats in the minority in the Alaska Legislature.

## ABOUT OUR INFORMATION

The National Institute on Money in State Politics received contribution data on disk from the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Institute staff standardized the contributor names and researched the economic interest of the contributor. The database includes contributions reported by all candidates, in primary and general elections, losers and winners, for legislative and statewide races in 1998.

The Institute discovered that contributions to several candidates were reported multiple times. The Alaska Public Offices Commission confirmed that candidates who reported contributions electronically had duplicate and sometimes triplicate reports. At that time, APOC had no plans to correct the records. The Institute removed the duplicate records to make its database as accurate as possible. So the data the Institute presents on the Web site will be slightly different from the state's data for this election.

## FOOTNOTES

1"Alaska GOP drops governor candidate," Arizona Republic, Oct. 26, 1998.