

SUMMARY OF THE 1998 WASHINGTON STATE ELECTIONS

By Lucy Vohs
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THE MONEY

Total 1998 Dollars: \$11,337,980

Total Senate Dollars: \$ 3,199,338

Total House Dollars: \$ 8,138,642

Number of voters: 3,027,071

Average amount raised per voter: \$ 3.75

Total Dollars

TOTAL \$	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Winners	General Losers	Primary Losers
Senate	\$2,041,555	\$771,545	\$386,237	\$2,107,508	\$1,011,583	\$80,247
House	\$4,568,934	\$1,768,920	\$1,800,789	\$5,574,856	\$2,102,692	\$461,093
TOTAL \$	\$6,610,489	\$2,540,465	\$2,187,027	\$7,682,364	\$3,114,275	\$541,340

Total Dollars by Office/ Average Dollars by Office

OFFICE	Total	# of Candidates	Avg/Candidate
Senate	\$3,199,338	44	\$72,712
House	\$8,138,642	226	\$36,011
Total	\$11,337,980	270	\$41,993

Sixteen candidates raised money but did not run in the 1998 election. The amount they raised - \$72,753 - is not included in the totals above, nor will it be included in the following data.

Total Dollars by Party

PARTY	Democrat	Republican	Third Party	TOTAL
Senate	\$1,433,417	\$1,765,920	\$0	\$3,199,338
House	\$3,634,451	\$4,474,895	\$29,296	\$8,138,642
TOTAL	\$5,067,868	\$6,240,816	\$29,296	\$11,337,980

Average Dollars by Party

PARTY	Democrat	Republican	Third Party
Senate	\$59,726	\$88,296	\$0
House	\$33,967	\$41,821	\$2,441
AVERAGE	\$38,686	\$49,140	\$2,441

Two Senate candidates and 26 House candidates did not file reports or raised no money. Of those, 13 were Democratic candidates, 10 were Republican and five were third party-candidates. Without these candidates, the average amount raised per Senate candidate increases to \$76,175, while the average raised per House candidate was \$40,693.

All Democratic Senate candidates filed reports. If the Republican Senate candidates who raised no money are removed, the average amount raised by Republican Senate candidates increases to \$98,107. Removing House candidates who did not file or raised no money increases the average amount raised by Democratic House candidates to \$38,664 and the average raised by Republican House candidates to \$45,201. The average dollars raised by third-party candidates in the House increases to \$4,185 if candidates who did not file reports or raised no money are removed.

THE RACES

In 1998, all 98 House seats and one half (24) of the Senate seats were up for election. In the Senate, 15 of the 24 races were contested, seven were uncontested and two were open, with no incumbent running for that seat. In the House, 61 of the 98 races were contested, while 20 were uncontested and 17 were open.

In addition to the 27 uncontested races, 16 candidates challengers raised less than \$1,000 in 14 House races and one Senate race. Because only token opposition existed in these 15 races, more than one-third (35 percent) of the legislative winners essentially had no opposition at all or no serious opposition.

	Contested	Uncontested	Open	Total
Senate	15	7	2	24
House	61	20	17	98
TOTAL	76	27	19	122

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

In Washington in 1998, individuals were limited to giving \$575 per legislative candidate in each of the primary and general elections. Political action committees (PACs), unions and corporations were limited to giving \$550 to caucus committees and to legislative candidates per election cycle. State party and caucus committees were limited to giving legislative candidates 58 cents per registered voter per election cycle. County and legislative district parties were limited to giving legislative candidates 29 cents per registered voter in an election cycle.

CANDIDATES	Democratic	Republican	Third Party	TOTAL	Incumbents	Challengers	Open
Senate	24	20	0	44	22	16	6
House	107	107	12	226	81	87	58
TOTAL	131	127	12	270	103	103	64

THE CANDIDATES

In all, 270 candidates ran in Washington's 1998 elections. Of these, 226 ran for a House seat and 44 sought a Senate seat. The number of incumbents and challengers was evenly split, at 103 each, while 64 candidates ran for an open seat. One candidate, incumbent Rep. Sabiha Dawn Mason, ran for open Senate District 37.

Major party candidates made up 96 percent of the candidate pool; 49 percent were Democrats and 47 percent were Republicans. The remaining 4 percent were from a third party.

	Incumbents	Challengers	Open Races	Avg\$/Incumbent	Avg\$/Challenger	Avg\$/Open
Senate	\$2,041,555	\$771,545	\$386,237	\$92,798	\$48,222	\$64,373
House	\$4,568,934	\$1,768,920	\$1,800,789	\$56,407	\$20,332	\$31,048
TOTAL \$	\$6,610,489	\$2,540,465	\$2,187,027	\$64,180	\$24,665	\$34,172

Incumbent candidates, on average, raised more money than challengers or candidates for open seats. Senate incumbents raised, on average, almost double the amount that challengers raised and almost 1.5 times the amount candidates raised in open races. House incumbents, on average, raised more than double the amount challengers raised and almost two times the amount that candidates in open races raised. In only two of the Senate races (8 percent) did the winner raise less money. In House races, winners raised less in 12 races (12 percent), four of which were for open seats.

THE WINNERS

In the Senate, 13 Democrats and 11 Republicans won their races, giving the Democrats a 27-22 majority. In the House, 49 Democrats and 49 Republicans won their races, creating a tie in that chamber.

WINNERS	Democratic	Republican	Third Party	Incumbents	Challengers	Open
Senate	13	11	0	19	3	2
House	49	49	0	73	8	17
TOTAL	62	60	0	92	11	19

Winners, on average, raised more money than did losing candidates. Senate candidates raised an average of \$72,712, twice the average \$36,011 that House candidates raised.

CANDIDATE \$	Total \$	# of Candidates	# of Winners	# of Losers	Avg\$/Candidate	Avg\$/Winner	Avg\$/Loser
Senate	\$3,199,338	44	24	20	\$72,712	\$87,813	\$54,591
House	\$8,138,642	226	98	128	\$36,011	\$56,886	\$20,030
TOTAL \$	\$11,337,980	270	122	148	\$41,993	\$62,970	\$24,700

Only 10.3 percent of the candidates won without the advantage of incumbency or a greater financial war chest. In the 24 Senate races, 22 of the seats (92 percent) were won by the candidate who raised the most money. In the House, the candidates who raised the most money won 86 of 98 races (88 percent). And generally, incumbents won their races. Only three Senate incumbents and eight House incumbents lost to their challengers.

TOP \$ RAISERS

In the races for Senate, Republican candidate Gary Strannigan raised the most money, \$233,280 while his opponent, Jeralita Costa, raised \$153,230. The next two highest money raisers were Raymond Schow, at \$215,897, and James West, who raised \$200,174. Seven of the top 10 money raisers were Republicans, while the other three were Democrats.

Top Senate \$ Raisers

TOP \$ RAISED	Candidate	Party	District	Total \$ Raised
1	Gary Strannigan	Republican	38	\$223,280
2	Raymond Schow	Republican	30	\$215,897
3	James West	Republican	6	\$200,174
4	Pauli Shin	Democrat	21	\$188,545
5	Jeanette Wood	Republican	21	\$187,133
6	Jeralita Costa	Democrat	38	\$153,230
7	Robert Oke	Republican	26	\$140,190
8	Georgia Gardner	Democrat	42	\$138,338
9	Patricia Hale	Republican	8	\$135,480
10	Stephen Johnson	Republican	47	\$129,676
TOTAL \$				\$1,711,943

The 10 Senate candidate who raised the most money raised \$1,711,943, or 54 percent of the total amount raised by Senate candidates. Overall, Republican Senate candidates raised \$1,765,920; Democratic candidates raised a total of \$1,433,418.

The top money raiser in the House was Republican Thomas Huff, who raised \$137,849. The second-highest money raiser, Laura Ruderman, raised \$133,255, while her opponent, Christopher Hurst, raised \$113,209. Six of the top 10 money raisers in the House were Republicans, while four were Democrats.

In the House races, the 10 candidates who raised the most money raised a total of \$1,191,127. Overall, Republican House candidates raised a total \$ 4,474,895, while Democratic candidates raised \$3,634,451

Top House \$ Raisers

TOP \$ RAISED	Candidates	Party	District	Total \$ Raised
1	Thomas Huff	Republican	26-02	\$137,849
2	Laura Ruderman	Democrat	45-02	\$133,255
3	Leslie Thomas	Republican	31-02	\$126,348
4	Patricia Lantz	Democrat	26-01	\$120,596
5	Paul Zellinsky	Republican	23-01	\$117,795
6	Clyde Ballard	Republican	12-01	\$115,124
7	Christopher Hurst	Democrat	31-02	\$113,209
8	Jerry Blanton	Republican	21-01	\$112,789
9	Phillips Rockefeller	Democrat	23-01	\$107,408
10	Hans Dunshee	Republican	45-02	\$106,754
TOTAL \$				\$1,191,127

WHO GIVES?

The following table breaks down the 1998 contributions by business sector. Not included in this table is \$927,913 given by contributors whose economic interests could not be identified. This accounts for 9 percent of the total contributions.

Business Sector	Total \$	% of Total \$
Labor	\$1,332,952	12.9%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$1,304,653	12.6%
Political Parties	\$1,273,788	12.3%
Health	\$1,018,509	9.9%
General Business	\$877,852	8.5%
Other	\$732,341	7.1%
Agriculture	\$687,423	6.7%
Energy & Natural Resources	\$627,096	6.1%
Communications & Electronics	\$595,899	5.8%
Construction	\$559,494	5.4%
Transportation	\$470,633	4.6%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$401,864	3.9%
Ideology	\$224,396	2.2%
Candidate Contributions	\$172,738	1.7%
Small Contributions	\$47,949	0.05%
TOTAL	\$10,327,589	100%

If contributions from political parties and candidates are excluded, 24,572 contributors gave a total \$10,064,192. These contributors represent a fraction of 1 percent of the voters registered to vote in the 1998 general election.

The table below shows the amount given by the top 10 contributors, all of which were companies, PACs or unions. These contributors gave \$817,262, or 8 percent of the total money given. The table does not include contributions candidates made to themselves or contributions from political parties.

Top 10 Contributors	Business	Total \$
Atlantic Richfield Co/ARCO	Oil & Gas	\$106,175
WA Optometric PAC	Health Professionals	\$90,907
Puget Sound Energy	Electric Utilities	\$85,325
WA Health Care Assoc PAC	Health Professionals	\$85,300
Public School Employees	Public Sector Unions	\$80,425
Candidates PAF	Real Estate	\$79,380
US West	Telecom Services & Equipment	\$78,350
WA St Auto Dealers PAC	Automotive	\$74,650
WA Beer & Wine Wholesalers	Beer, Wine & Liquor	\$70,250
WA St Dental PAC	Health Professionals	\$66,500
		\$817,262

Only two sets of individuals were among the top 100 contributors: Julia Calhoun and Christopher Larson of Microsoft together gave \$52,875, and Charlotte and Jack Spitzer, who are involved in real estate, gave \$22,475.

Identified contributions to Democrats totaled \$4,593,436, and contributions to Republicans totaled \$5,711,982. Third-party candidates received contributions totaling \$22,171. Democrats received a larger percentage of contributions from labor unions, political parties, non-business interests (which includes, among other things, government employees, clergy, military, social workers and tribal governments), lawyers and lobbyists, ideological groups, contributions from candidates to themselves, and small contributions. Labor interests gave the highest percentage of money to Democrats, with 87.5 percent of their money going to Democratic candidates. Republicans received a higher percentage of money from the finance, insurance and real estate industries, health industries, general business interests, agriculture, energy and natural resources, communications and electronics, construction and transportation. The highest percentage of money to Republicans came from agricultural interests, which gave 82.7 percent of their contributions to Republican candidates.

Business Sector	\$ to Democrats	% to Democrats	\$ to Republicans	% to Republicans	Total \$
Labor	\$1,166,759	87.5%	\$186,192	12.5%	\$1,332,952
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	\$323,359	24.8%	\$980,484	75.1%	\$1,304,653
Political Parties	\$745,316	58.5%	\$522,472	41.0%	\$1,273,788
Health	\$352,662	34.6%	\$665,247	65.3%	\$1,018,509
General Business	\$281,525	32.1%	\$595,107	67.8%	\$877,852
Other	\$447,969	61.2%	\$282,013	38.5%	\$732,341
Agriculture	\$118,918	17.3%	\$568,306	82.7%	\$687,423
Energy & Natural Resources	\$178,786	28.5%	\$448,310	71.5%	\$627,096
Communications & Electronics	\$216,246	36.3%	\$379,503	63.7%	\$595,899
Construction	\$111,298	19.9%	\$447,796	80.0%	\$559,494
Transportation	\$117,122	24.9%	\$353,411	75.1%	\$470,633
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$272,552	67.8%	\$129,312	32.2%	\$401,864
Ideology	\$114,404	51.0%	\$109,780	48.9%	\$224,396
Candidate Contributions	\$123,154	71.3%	\$45,216	26.2%	\$172,738
Small Contributions	\$23,366	48.7%	\$18,823	39.3%	\$47,949
TOTAL	\$4,593,436		\$5,711,982		\$10,327,589

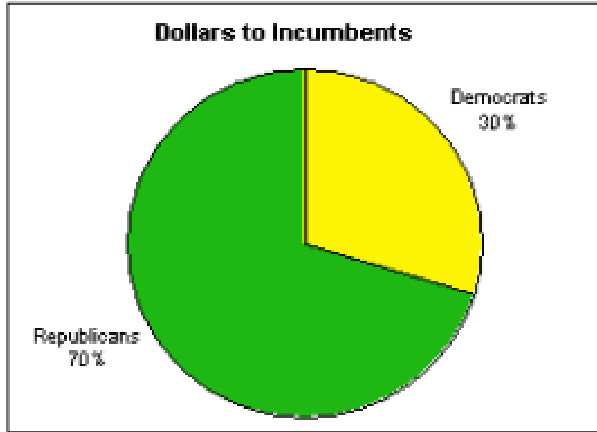
Third-party candidates received less than 1 percent of their contributions from all sources except for candidate contributions to themselves (2.5 percent) and small contributions (12 percent).

In the 1998 Washington elections, incumbent candidates won 89 percent of the time. In 14 of the 15 contested Senate races, the incumbent candidate raised more money. In 56 of the 61 contested House races, the incumbent candidate raised more money.

Business Sector	% to Incumbents	% to Challengers	% to Open Race
Labor	45.8%	35.30%	18.90%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	72.7%	11.30%	16%
Political Parties	28.0%	47.60%	24.40%
Health	71.3%	9.50%	19.20%
General Business	71.7%	13.70%	14.60%
Other	42.8%	32.80%	24.40%
Agriculture	77.9%	8.10%	14%
Energy & Natural Resources	81.4%	7.70%	10.90%
Communications & Electronics	78.4%	10.10%	11.50%
Construction	66.2%	15.50%	18.30%
Transportation	74.4%	11.30%	14.30%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	46.2%	28%	25.80%
Ideology	46.6%	31.30%	22.10%
Candidate Contributions	9.1%	44.90%	46%
Small Contributions	28.7%	56.40%	14.90%
TOTAL \$	\$6,610,489	\$2,540,465	\$2,187,027

Incumbents were given a larger percent of money by all of the industry sectors. Energy and natural resource interests gave the most money to incumbents - \$510,671 or 81.4 percent of their total contributions. In fact, over half the different business sectors gave 50 percent or more of their total contributions to incumbent candidates. Challengers received a higher percentage of

money only from political parties, candidate contributions to themselves, and small contributions. Only political entities, such as political parties and candidates themselves, gave more to challengers than incumbents. No business interests gave more money to challengers.



Republican incumbents raised much more money (\$4,642,997) than Democrat incumbents (\$1,967,492). Certain businesses gave their contributions entirely to incumbent candidates. For example, Boeing gave 90 percent of its contributions to incumbents, with less than \$3,000 going to challengers and none to candidates in open races.

US West gave 87.2 percent of its total contributions to incumbents, 12.8 percent to challengers and less than \$7,000 to candidates in open races.

Of the top 10 contributors, Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO) gave 100 percent to incumbents and none to challengers. The Washington Optometric PAC gave 7.3 percent to challengers and 92.7 percent to incumbents. Sound Energy gave 3.5 percent to challengers and 96.5 percent to incumbents. The eighth, ninth, and tenth largest contributors also gave much more to incumbents than challengers. The Washington State Dental PAC gave only 2.1 percent to challengers, the Washington Business PAC gave 4.4 percent to challengers, and the Washington State Dental PAC gave 97.9 percent to incumbents and none to challengers.

In total, incumbents received 58.3 percent of the money given to candidates, challengers received 22.4 percent and candidates in open races received 19.3 percent.

ABOUT OUR INFORMATION

The Washington Public Disclosure Commission supplied data for this study in electronic format. Staff at the National Institute on Money in State conducted research to identify the economic interest of the contributors and standardize their names. The database includes contributions reported by all candidates, primary and general, losers and winners, for legislative races in 1998.

COMPLIANCE

Washington state does not supply contributor address information that it collects. It also fails to enforce the contribution law, which states that occupation and employer information is required for contributors who give an aggregate total of \$100 or more to a candidate. In the 1998 election, close to \$500,000 of the total \$11,337,980 in contributions did not have occupation and employer information. The reports for almost half of the individual contributors who gave \$100 or more did not contain the employer or occupation information required by law. (A total of 59,630 contribution records were filed in 1998. Of those, 24,922 involved businesses or

corporations. Of the remaining 34,708 records, 10,502 involved \$100 or more.) The percentage of records that do not comply with the law grows when contributors who gave an aggregate total of \$100 or more are included. Of the 270 candidates who ran in 1998, 224 (83 percent) filed reports that did not comply with the law. Nine candidates who reported \$10,000 or more in contributions did not include contributor occupation and employer, with the largest amount - \$20,368 - reported by Valeria M. Ogden. Further, more than \$400,000 (4 percent) of the contributions reported contained a non-distinguishing occupation or employer, such as self-employed, homemaker or businessman.