



# Money in Politics Research Action Project

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**For Immediate Release:**

April 13, 2004

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**Primary Election Campaign Contributions: Totals and Trends**

Large contributions, particularly from the business sector, continue to dominate fundraising by major candidates in Portland primary elections, according to disclosure reports filed yesterday.

Candidates for mayor and city council positions #1 and #4 filed the first campaign contributions and expenditure disclosure report required before the May primary.

**Chart 1: Total Contributions to 2004 Primary Portland City Council Candidates**

Mayoral Candidates	1 <sup>st</sup> report contribution totals*	City Council Position #1	1 <sup>st</sup> report contribution totals*	City Council Position #4	1 <sup>st</sup> report contribution totals*
Jerry Adams	\$5,010	Sam Adams	\$253,923	Frank Dixon	\$12,000
Phil Busse	\$6,534	Nick Fish	\$200,579	Mark Lakeman	\$3,828
Jim Francesconi	\$547,931	Jason Newell	\$4,301	Paul Leistner	\$5,050
James Posey	\$6,334			Randy Leonard	\$149,047
Tom Potter	\$44,990			Bonny McKnight	\$1,084
Jeffrey Rempfer	\$2,095			Scott Stephens	\$875
Jeff Taylor	\$73,900			Jim Whittenburg	\$5,457

\*Contribution totals include direct and in-kind contributions as well as loans received and may change due to auditing and/or amendments. Unlisted candidates indicated either that they were not going to raise or spend more than \$2,000 (thereby released from filing disclosure reports) or that they weren't going to raise or spend more than \$300 (and thereby not even required to form a political committee).

Jim Francesconi and Randy Leonard also submitted disclosure reports last September that reflect fundraising for the May primary. Francesconi reported contributions of \$341,291 raised between September 2002 and September 2003 while Leonard raised \$63,829 between his final 2002 disclosure report and September 2003, effectively bringing their campaign fundraising totals to \$889,222 and \$212,876 respectively.

The size of the average itemized contribution in Francesconi's September 2003 report jumped 200 percent over the same figure in his first election in 1996. By contrast, the average itemized contribution for Leonard increased by only 11 percent. (See chart 2.) Preliminary review of the first primary disclosure report for these two candidates indicates that the size of the average itemized contribution will likely remain high.

**Chart 2 -Size of Average Itemized Contribution from First Election Year to September 2003 Reports for Incumbents in Primary Races**

	Jim Francesconi	Randy Leonard
1 <sup>st</sup> election year (1996 for Francesconi and 2002 for Leonard)	\$261	\$786
September 2003 report	\$782	\$874
% increase	+200%	+11%

Giving to Francesconi and Leonard in terms of economic interest group shifted for both incumbents in the September 2003 report as compared to previous fundraising trends. The top economic sector giving to Francesconi as noted on his September report is the financial insurance, real estate sector, comprising 31.1 percent of his contributions. Compared with previous years' fundraising to Francesconi's campaign, the 2003 report reflects a 40 percent increase in this sector's share of Francesconi's campaign financing. (See chart 3.)

The economic interests behind Randy Leonard's 2003 contributions shifted significantly as compared to his initial races in 2002. Labor gave the greatest share of money to Commissioner Leonard in 2002 at 46.7 percent. This is not surprising given Leonard's union membership and activism on behalf of workers throughout his political career. Union support as identified in dollars contributed to Leonard's September report, however, declined to only 3.9 percent of total fundraising for that period--an almost 12-fold decrease in labor's share of contributions to Leonard's campaign. General business and financial, insurance, and real estate sector's represented his two highest contributing sectors on Leonard's September report. (See chart 3.)

**Chart 3 - Francesconi and Leonard Campaign Contributions by Economic Group**

Group	Jim Francesconi				Randy Leonard			
	1996-2002 total contributions	%	Sept 2003 contributions	%	2002 contributions	%	Sept 2003 contributions	%
Agriculture/Timber	\$15,707	2.4%	\$20,380	6.0%	\$10,250	2.3%		
Communic/Electronics	\$15,820	2.4%	\$15,950	4.7%	\$5,000	1.1%		
Construction	\$43,672	6.5%	\$33,700	9.9%	\$5,275	1.2%	\$7,000	11.0%
Energy/Nat Resource	\$27,918	4.2%	\$18,950	5.6%	\$26,900	5.9%	\$7,750	12.1%
Fin/Ins/Real Estate	\$148,126	22.2%	\$106,285	31.1%	\$59,361	13.1%	\$18,900	29.6%
General Business	\$113,725	17.1%	\$46,571	13.6%	\$23,265	5.1%	\$21,250	33.3%
Health	\$21,149	3.2%	\$8,300	2.4%	\$1,300	0.3%	\$150	0.2%
Ideology/Single Issue	\$10,123	1.5%	\$25	0.0%	\$2,500	0.6%		
Labor	\$9,400	1.4%			\$212,347	46.7%	\$2,500	3.9%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$74,155	11.1%	\$18,900	5.5%	\$4,925	1.1%	\$2,179	3.4%
Other	\$61,904	9.3%	\$39,355	11.5%	\$45,830	10.1%	\$150	0.2%
Party/Candidate	\$42,250	6.3%			\$25,898	5.7%	\$3,500	5.5%
Small Contributions	\$20,336	3.0%			\$14,589	3.2%		
Transport/Tourism	\$36,003	5.4%	\$20,150	5.9%	\$13,675	3.0%		
Unknown	\$26,649	4.0%	\$12,725	3.7%	\$3,326	0.7%	\$450	0.7%
Totals	\$666,937		\$341,291		\$454,442		\$63,829	

Largest percentage 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest percentage 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest percentage 4<sup>th</sup> Largest percentage  
5<sup>th</sup> Largest percentage

More detailed analysis of primary election contributions to Francesconi and Leonard will reveal whether or not the patterns seen in their September reports continue through the primary season. Preliminary review of their 1<sup>st</sup> primary disclosure report indicates that the patterns will likely be similar.

For example, an initial review indicates that Leonard received \$11,500 in labor contributions on his first primary report, representing 7.7 percent of his fundraising for this period. While this is an increase over Leonard's labor contributions on his September 2003 report, it doesn't compare to the 46.7 percent share that labor contributed to Leonard's 2002 elections. Two factors presumably contribute to this shift in contribution patterns. One is Leonard's role as Commissioner with responsibility for the Bureau of Development Services. The second is that incumbency makes it easier for Leonard to raise money from sources other than the union allies he relied upon in his initial election campaigns.

Large contribution totals and the domination of fundraising by those who can make large contributions raise troubling questions about the role of money in Portland politics.