



Money in Politics Research Action Project

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Medical Malpractice Reformers Poised to Break Fundraising Records Other Ballot Measure Campaigns Dominated by Small Numbers of Large Donors

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Two PACs have raised more than \$5 million to pass measure 35, which would limit non-economic damages in medical malpractice cases, threatening to break the record amount of money raised for either side of a ballot measure fight since 1986.

The record, raised in a successful effort to stop a 1992 ballot measure to shut down the Trojan nuclear power plant, neared \$6.5 million in inflation-adjusted dollars. Two more disclosure periods remain in this election to determine whether the campaign will break the record. The "yes on 35" fundraising figures include dollars carried forward from that effort's signature gathering PAC, which raised far more money than was required to qualify for a spot on the November ballot.

Of the remaining five measures, four of the "no" sides are winning the fundraising race. The last measure, which would change Oregon's medical marijuana laws, is not facing an opposition political committee.

Chart 1: Contributions to Both Sides of November 2004 Ballot Measures¹

BM	"Yes" Campaigns				"No" Campaigns				\$ Leader (Yes or No)
	PAC(s)	BCB ¹	Total 1 st Report ²	Total	PAC(s)	BCB	Total 1 st Report ²	Total	
33	Life With Dignity Committee, A	\$8,888	\$490,779	\$499,667	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
34	Oregonians for a Balanced Tillamook	\$2,587	\$83,828	\$86,415	Alliance to Keep Our State Forests Working	\$0	\$2,295,133	\$2,295,133	No
35	Oregonians for Quality, Affordable and Reliable Health Care and Hospitals for Liability Fairness PAC	\$3,072,013	\$1,951,120 ³	\$5,023,133	Coalition for Real Insurance Reform	\$979,632	\$867,537	\$1,847,169	Yes
36	Defense Of Marriage Coalition PAC	\$24,147	\$659,838	\$683,985	No on Constitutional Amendment 36	\$0	\$1,166,646	\$1,166,646	No
37	Family Farm Preservation PAC	\$264,991	\$546,194	\$811,185	No on 37 Take a Closer Look Committee	\$0	\$1,172,920	\$1,172,920	No
38	Oregonians for Accountability	\$13,808	\$1,570,275	\$1,584,083	Committee for Saif Keeping	\$10,888	\$2,339,715	\$2,350,603	No

¹ Beginning Cash Balance, or total cash the PAC had on hand at the beginning of the reporting period.

² Data based on disclosure reports filed with the Secretary of State's office on September 27, 2004. Numbers may change due to auditing and amendments.

³ Figure adjusted to take into account \$281,050 transfer from Hospital PAC to Health Care PAC.

The fundraising underdogs in half of the measure matchups are struggling to keep up, having raised between 50 and 75 percent of their opponents' money. Having raised only 3.8 percent of "no" side's money, proponents of measure 34, which would change how some state forests are managed, have been drowned out by the measure's opponents. The fight over

medical malpractice reform is lopsided, with the “no” side raising only about one dollar for every three the “yes” side raised. The medical marijuana campaign is not facing an opposition PAC. (See Chart 2 for details.)

Chart 2: Fundraising Differences between “Yes” and “No” Campaigns¹

BM	Difference between Total “Yes” and “No” Contribution Totals	Underdog Percentage of Opposition Fundraising (underdog side)	“Yes” Campaign				“No” Campaign			
			Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less		Top 10 Contributors		Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less		Top 10 Contributors	
			\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
33	N/A	N/A	\$949	0.2%	\$489,245	99.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
34	\$2,211,305	(yes) 3.8%	\$1077	1.3%	\$74,520	88.9%	\$8948	0.4%	\$1,555,854	67.8%
35	\$3,175,964	(no) 36.8%	\$5410	0.3%	\$1,320,411	67.7%	\$470	0.1%	\$590,000	68.0%
36	\$506,808	(yes) 58.6%	\$300,523	45.5%	\$246,487	37.4%	\$84,137	7.2%	\$768,544	65.9%
37	\$626,914	(yes) 69.2%	\$80	<0.1%	\$417,000	76.3%	\$30,087	2.6%	\$707,385	60.3%
38	\$769,440	(yes) 67.4%	\$0	0.0%	\$1,570,275	100%	\$4613	0.2%	\$1,748,265	74.7%

¹Data based on disclosure reports filed with the Secretary of State’s office on September 27, 2004. Numbers may change due to auditing and amendments.

Most of the campaigns on both sides of the measures rely on a few contributors for their cash. With the exception of the “yes” side of Measure 36, the top 10 contributors make up more than 60 percent of contributions to each of campaign efforts and contributors giving \$50 or less make up less than 10 percent of contributions.

Liberty Northwest continues to be the overwhelming driving force behind measure 38, which would abolish rival insurance provider SAIF, contributing all but less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the money raised to pass the measure. On the “yes” side of the Medical Marijuana campaign, the Marijuana Policy Project contributed 97 percent of all of the money the campaign raised.

Timber interests are top donors to three ballot measure campaigns, primarily focusing on defeating ballot measure 34, which would change management of two state forests. Several timber companies are also top donors to the “yes on 37” effort to require government payments to property owners facing land use regulations. Two lumber companies are major donors to the committee to defeat measure 38. Construction industry groups, which like the timber industry face serious workers’ compensation insurance concerns given the potential for injuries in their industry, are also major “no on 38” donors.

Union contributions are significantly smaller this election cycle since there are no measures targeting labor. Unions, however, are major supporters to the “no on 37” committee, presumably because of the impact that measure could have on local governments and government workers.

“Who gives to ballot measures often reveals important clues about what is at stake in the campaign. In the absence of party affiliations and other ideological cues, disclosure reports provide crucial information about why voters are being asked to vote either way on what may be ballot measure with a narrow base of support,” said Sarah Wetherson, research and outreach associate with the Money in Politics Research Action Project.

Chart 3: Top 10 Contributors to Each Side of Measures on the November 2004 Ballot

BM	“Yes” Groups and Their Top 10 Contributors	Yea Amount	‘No’ Groups and Their Top 10 Contributors	Nay Amount
33	Life With Dignity Committee, A	\$490,779	None	N/A
	Marijuana Policy Project: \$476,295 (97%) Voter Power: \$7000 (1.4%) Berkeley Patients Group: \$2500 (<1%) Richard Bayer: \$2100 Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less: \$949 William Bruce Shepley: \$150 12 contributions of \$100 each.		N/A	N/A

BM	"Yes" Groups and Their Top 10 Contributors	Yea Amount	'No" Groups and Their Top 10 Contributors	Nay Amount
34	Oregonians for a Balanced Tillamook	\$83,828	Alliance to Keep Our State Forests Working	\$2,295,133
	Audobon Society of Portland: \$30,000 (36%) Richard Koe and Bill Lazar: \$10,000 (12%) each Robert Adams, Yvon Chouinard, Elizabeth Jennings and Jim Mundell: \$5000 (6%) each Henry Von Eichel: \$2000 (2%) Paul Brainerd: \$1500 (1.8%) Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less: \$1077 (1.3%) Noble Rot: \$1020 (1.2%).		Hampton Lumber Sales Company: \$303,829 (13%) Stimson Lumber Company \$249,939 (11%) RSG Forest Products, Inc: \$213,516 (9%) Roseburg Forest Products: \$208,285 (9%) Boise Cascade Corporation: \$130,557 (6%) Oregon Forest Industry Council: \$101,756 (4%) Weyerhaeuser: \$100,000 (4%) Swanson Group, Inc: \$86,739 (4%) Seneca Jones Timber Co.: \$83,997 (4%) Longview Fibre Co: \$77,236 (3%).	
35	Oregonians for Quality, Affordable And Reliable Health Care and Hospitals for Liability Fairness PAC	\$1,951,120 ¹	Coalition for Real Insurance Reform	\$867,537
	PeaceHealth Oregon Region: \$300,000 (15%) Legacy Health System: \$200,000 (10%) Salem Hospital Regional Health Services: \$175,000 (9%) Pfizer: \$150,000 (8%) OHSU Foundation and Providence Health System: \$100,000 (5%) each Asante Health System: \$82,911 (4%) St. Charles Medical Center: \$75,000 (4%) Douglas Medical Clinic PC: \$70,000 (4%) Adventist Medical Center: \$67,500 (4%).		Lawrence Wobbrock: \$100,000 (12%) Paulson Law Firm, Gatti & Gatti Law Firm PC, Gaylord Eyeman Bradley PC, Richard M. Rogers, Swanson Thomas & Coon and Tichenor & Dziuba LLP: \$50,000 (6%) each Greg Smith: \$40,000 (5%) Michael Lowell Williams, Haglund Kelley Horngren & Jones LLP, Johnson Clifton Larson & Corson PC, J William Savage, Linda C. Love and Arthur Johnson: \$25,000 (3%) each.	
36	Defense Of Marriage Coalition PAC	\$659,838	No On Constitutional Amendment 36	\$1,166,646
	Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less: \$300,523 (46%) Christian Copyright Licensing International \$200,000 (30%) Mt. Olivet Baptist Church: \$15,000 (2%) Adams & Co.; Central Bible and New Hope Community Churches: \$5000 (<1%) each Victorious Faith Family Church: \$3500 City Bible Church: \$3000 Alan Folkman and Charles Freitag: \$2500 each Wayne Little and Carmen Stoneking: \$1500 each		National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: \$529,536 (45%) Tim Gill: \$100,000 (9%) Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less: \$84,137 (7%) Planned Parenthood: \$35,000 (3%) Basic Rights Measure PAC 2002: \$23,243 (3%) ACLU of Oregon: \$26,765 (2%) Eric Lemelson, Powell's Books Inc., and Jason E Zidell: \$10,000 (<1%) each Ballot Initiative Strategy Center and Portland Association of Teachers: \$7500 each.	
37	Family Farm Preservation PAC	\$546,206	No On 37 Take a Closer Look Committee	\$1,173,120
	Seneca Jones Timber Co.: \$65,000 (12%) RSG Forest Products Inc. and Swanson Group Inc.: \$50,000 (9%) each Jeld-Wen Foundation: \$45,000 (8%) Bill McCormick: \$37,000 (7%) Rosboro Lumber Co., Stimson Lumber Co., and Wes Lematta/Columbia Helicopters: \$30,000 (6%) each. Arle & Company, C&D Lumber Co. and Donna Woolley: \$25,000 (5%) each.		Eric D Lemelson: \$100,500 (9%) Edmund Hayes and John Gray: \$100,000 (9%) each Oregon Education Association, League of Conservation Voters and Dorothy Lemelson Trust: \$75,000 (6%) 1000 Friends of Oregon: \$71,385 (6%) Oregon AFSCME Council 75: \$50,000 (4%) Service Employees International Union 503: \$40,500 (4%) Miscellaneous Contributions of \$50 or less: \$30,087 (3%) Aida R. Messinger: \$20,000 (2%).	
38	Oregonians for Accountability	\$1,570,275	Committee for Saif Keeping	\$2,339,715
	Liberty Northwest: \$1,566,001 (99.7%) Ashforth Pacific: \$2774 (<1%) Committee to Elect Tom Butler, Oregon Citizens for a Sound Economy, and Oregon Restaurant Association: \$500 each.		Associated General Contractors of America Inc.: \$1,084,654 (46%) Associated Oregon Loggers Inc.: \$387,554 (17%) AGC Committee for Action: \$100,000 (4%) Hamilton Construction Company: \$50,000 (2%) Stimson Lumber Company and Weyerhaeuser: \$25,000 (1%) each Boise Cascade Corporation, Oregon Beverage PAC and A-DEC: \$20,000 (<9%) Rockford Corporation: \$16,057.	

¹Figure adjusted to take into account \$281,050 transfer from Hospital PAC to Health Care PAC.