



Who Own\$ the Election?

League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County
Fall, 2012

The following information was obtained from OpenSecrets.org, a division of the Center for Responsive Politics. More detailed information, including who is spending what inside Missouri can be obtained from the website (www.opensecrets.org).

Other sources of up-to-date information includes the Wall Street Journal (How Much Are Super PACs Spending) at <http://projects.wsj.com/super-pacs/> and ProPublica (PAC Track: What and Where are Super PACs Spending) at <http://projects.propublica.org/pactrack/#committee=all>.

Outside Spending By Type of Spender (as of September 14):

<u>Type of Group</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>	<u># of Groups Registered</u>	<u># of Groups Spending to Date</u>
Super PACs	\$239,149,341	839	155
Parties	\$ 46,203,826	91	21
Others (Corporations, unions, individuals, other groups, etc.)	\$ 99,171,347	376	245
<u>Grand Total:</u>	<u>\$384,524,514</u>	<u>1,305</u>	<u>421</u>

Outside Spending by Viewpoint (as of September 14)

<u>Viewpoint</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Conservative	\$ 282.7 M	73.5 %
Liberal	\$ 95.5 M	24.8 %
Other	\$ 6.4 M	1.7 %
Total	\$ 384.6 M	100 %

Total Outside Spending by Election Cycle, Excluding Party Committees

The chart below shows spending by outside groups in three categories: independent expenditures, electioneering communications and communication costs. As the chart makes clear, the 2004 election marked a watershed moment in the use of independent expenditures to try to sway voters, with most of that new spending coming from the national party committees. The 2010 election marks the rise of a new political committee, dubbed "super PACs," and officially known as "independent-expenditure only committees," which can raise unlimited sums from corporations, unions and other groups, as well as wealthy individuals. Super PACs may overtly advocate for the defeat or election of federal candidates. In addition to super PACs and regular political action committees (which raise money via contributions capped at \$5,000 per year), special interest groups also have other vehicles at their disposal to influence elections and policy. These include 527 organizations registered with the Internal Revenue Service and 501(c) nonprofits, which aren't primarily supposed to be involved in politics, but are allowed limited political activity. 501(c) groups must also register with the IRS, but do not have to publicly disclose their donors.

- Independent Expenditures: ads that expressly advocate the election or defeat of specific candidates and are aimed at the electorate as a whole. Under federal rules, these expenditures must be made independently of the candidates, with no illegal coordination. In January 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* that corporations and unions may fund independent expenditures with money from their general treasuries. Prior to that, independent expenditures could only be made by the organization's PAC. In the wake of *Citizens United*, some groups continue to use their PACs to fund independent expenditures, while others are taking advantage of the new freedom to spend directly from treasury funds. Individuals, political parties, unions, corporations, PACs and other groups making independent expenditures must disclose the name of the candidates who benefit and must itemize the amounts spent in a report to the Federal Election Commission.
- Electioneering Communications: expenditures made for broadcast ads (television or radio), airing within 30 days of a primary election or 60 days of a general election, that mention or refer to a federal candidate and are aimed at 50,000 or more members of the electorate of the office the candidate is seeking.
- Communication Costs: internal political messages generally aimed only at the members of a union or organization, or company executives. These may be coordinated with the candidates and can be paid for directly from the organization's treasury.

<u>Cycle</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Independent Expenditures</u>	<u>Electioneering Communications</u>	<u>Communication Costs</u>
2012	\$328,359,737	\$320,042,434	\$ 5,412,467	\$ 2,904,836
2010	\$294,693,518	\$206,431,179	\$ 74,453,972	\$ 13,808,367
2008	\$301,679,929	\$156,841,894	\$119,256,138	\$ 25,581,897
2006	\$ 68,852,502	\$ 37,394,589	\$ 15,152,326	\$ 16,305,587
2004	\$200,102,202	\$ 68,716,443	\$100,218,129	\$ 31,167,630
2002	\$ 27,289,285	\$ 16,588,844	N/A	\$ 10,700,441
2000	\$ 50,796,592	\$ 33,034,631	N/A	\$ 17,761,961

Note: Presidential election years are in bold type. Totals are to date.

Top Races by Spending (excluding Party Committees):

<u>Race</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>For Dems.</u>	<u>Against Dems</u>	<u>For Repubs</u>	<u>Against Repubs</u>
1. President	\$270,816,054	\$22,481,218	\$110,253,750	\$55,556,500	\$78,218,651
2. Texas Senate	\$ 14,666,515	\$ 5,921	\$ 0	\$ 3,739,819	\$10,920,775
3. Wisconsin Senate	\$ 7,683,418	\$ 516,063	\$ 860,059	\$ 1,567,638	\$ 4,739,658
4. Indiana Senate	\$ 7,003,687	\$ 338,825	\$ 781,974	\$ 2,156,602	\$ 3,726,286
7. Missouri Senate	\$ 4,857,346	\$ 1,217,071	\$ 435,404	\$ 311,532	\$ 2,893,339

Donors:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Donor Count</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>% of Total Raised</u>	<u>%Donors</u>	<u>%Lib</u>	<u>%Con</u>
Orgs + Individuals Combined	9,361	\$331,913,919	\$82,879,950	\$226,377,814	95%	100%	25%	68%
Top 1 percent	94	\$205,363,240	\$50,550,758	\$143,887,784	62%	1%	25%	70%

Figures show total itemized individual and organizational contributions to super PACs as a percent of overall receipts. Data released by the FEC on September 03, 2012.

The **top 100 individual donors to super PACs**, along with their spouses, represent just **1.0% of all individual donors** to super PACs, but **73% of the money** they delivered. The top three donors are below; for a complete list go to the Center for Responsive Politics.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Organization/Occupation</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Viewpoint</u>
1	Adelson, Sheldon G. & Miriam O.	Las Vegas Sands/Adelson Drug Clinic	\$36,250,000	C
2	Simmons, Harold C. & Annette	Contran Corp	\$15,740,000	C
3	Perry, Robert J.	Perry Homes	\$13,900,000	C

*C = Generally supports conservative candidates; L = Generally supports liberal candidates

Based on data released daily by the FEC on Monday, September 03, 2012 and by the IRS on July 30, 2012.

Methodological Note: This page includes donations to the outside spending groups that can accept unlimited contributions. This includes "super PACs", earmarked donations that are reported by 501c non-profit organizations and earmarked donations reported by 527 organizations that use the contributions explicitly for electioneering communications or independent expenditures. This page does not include donations to political action committees.