

MONEY AND POLITICS TIP SHEET

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I. TRACKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES AND PARTIES

A/ CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE POLITICS – The best web site with a terrific and helpful staff. Contact Sheila Krumholz, research director, at 857-0044.

<http://www.opensecrets.org>

B/ FECINFO – A pay site that offers up to date downloads from the FEC, searchable lobbyist records and information on 527 organizations. Also has a regularly updated news and new filings page. Staff can be reached at (202) 628-0617

<http://www.politicalmoneyline.com>

C/ FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION – government site that provides pdf files of actual campaign, candidate and party disclosure forms. Also provides updates on FEC rulemaking and disciplinary actions. Press guys can be reached at (202) 694-1100

<http://www.fec.gov>

D/ NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON MONEY AND STATE POLITICS – tracks donations at the state level, including state judicial races. Contact Samantha Sanchez: (406) 449-2480

<http://www.followthemoney.org>

E/ IRS – The agency says it is working on a new site to display filings from 527 political organizations. For latest information check out the following: <http://www.irs.gov/charities/political/>

II. TRACKING THE LOBBYISTS

A/ SENATE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS – starting its second year of searchable lobbyist registration forms in pdf format. It's free and easy to use. This office also has financial disclosures, blind trust and other disclosure documents. 202-224-0758

[http:// www.sopr.senate.gov](http://www.sopr.senate.gov)

B/ FECINFO – provides searchable database of lobbyists (see above)

C/ COMMON CAUSE – unveils new lobbyist database searchable by bill numbers, issues lobbied, client and lobbyist name. Ready by fall. Check it out at:

[http:// www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org)

III. TRACKING THE ADS – Corporations, unions and trade associations now commit huge sums to independent ads. Check with campaign and party sources as well as the groups below:

A/ WISCONSIN ADVERTISING PROJECT – the most complete site tracking ads in the nation's 100 largest media markets. Run by Prof. Ken Goldstein, 608-263-2297

<http://www.polisci.wisc.edu/tvadvertising>

B/ CAMPAIGN MEDIA ANALYSIS GROUP - for profit group that tracks advertising. Sometimes provides information on ad trends and specific campaigns. Staff is reachable at 703-379-8906.

<http://www.cmagreports.com>

C/ ANNENBERG PUBLIC POLICY CENTER – monitors issue ads nationwide. Contact Lorie Slass at. 202-879-6700

<http://www.appcpenn.org>

