

## Issue: Campaign Financing

# Short Articles About Republican Campaign Financing

### Pay to Play

Dominican Leadership Trust PAC was founded by Republican House of Delegates Speaker Bill Howell, to raise money for GOP candidates. Since 2002, delegates who gave to the PAC in the final months before a session won promotion in the next session to new committees or chair posts a total of 71 times. Delegates defend this *pay to play* policy with the claim that giving to this PAC is expected. That sounds like “paying dues” or possibly paying to be appointed to a committee, since many members were appointed soon after large grants were given by themselves or family members. If giving is expected, then why do those who give more get the more powerful committee appointments?

### Republican Candidates Clearly Favored by Corporations

Energy giant Dominion Energy, tobacco giant Altria, Verizon, Comcast and Anheuser-Busch give more to GOP candidates than Democratic candidates. Big corporate donors in Virginia hedge their bets and tend to contribute in roughly equal measure to both Democratic and Republican candidates at the state-wide level (e.g. Governor), where Democrats frequently get elected. However, further down ballot at the district voting level (e.g. State Senate, House of Delegates), these donors clearly favor Republicans. This disparity in campaign funding, along with other factors like gerrymandering and voter suppression, helps to sustain a situation where Republicans have control of the House of Delegates.

### Attack Ads

According to the group, Virginia House Democrats, voters in Prince William and Fauquier Counties recently began receiving mailings from the Dominion PAC, using phrases like “illegal aliens”. Donors to the Dominion PAC include Dominion Energy, tobacco giant Altria and Koch Industries. The largest single donor is the RSLC, which is the group that sought to flip state governments to Republican control in advance of the 2010 census, thus controlling gerrymandering- the REDMAP plan). It's hard for democratic delegates to compete with GOP candidates when GOP funds come from giant corporations who support gerrymandering and voter suppression which increases corporate financial gain while snuffing the people's vote.