



About the Center for Responsive Politics

The Center for Responsive Politics is the nation's premier research group tracking money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. Founded in 1983, the nonpartisan, nonprofit Center aims to create a more educated voter, an involved citizenry and a more responsive government.

Through its award-winning website, OpenSecrets.org, the Center shares its money-in-politics research with the public and also provides its unparalleled data to organizations such as MAPLight.org.

How CRP “Follows the Money”

The Center distinguishes itself by deeply processing and analyzing the money-in-politics data it collects from government sources. For example, CRP is the only organization that standardizes both the individual and employer for millions of campaign contributions disclosed to the Federal Election Commission, and CRP's researchers attempt to assign one of more than 400 industry-based codes to every contribution.

This laborious effort allows meaningful reporting and comparison of the top industries, sectors and individual contributors to all federal candidates, political action committees, parties and congressional committees. Profiles of the major players, matches among family members, correlations between the money and legislative votes and more are easily derived from such a thorough system.

In addition to campaign contributions and expenditures, OpenSecrets.org provides freely available, easy-to-use databases tracking:

- Lobbying and Washington's “revolving door”
- Personal finances of government officials
- Privately sponsored congressional travel

Major Foundation Funders

CRP is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Support comes from foundation grants, individual contributions and research fees.

- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Ford Foundation
- Sunlight Foundation
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- Joyce Foundation



OpenSecrets.org Traffic

- On Election Day '06, traffic to OpenSecrets.org surpassed the 2004 presidential election. The site received the most hits ever in a single day—more than 2.3 million—and delivered 436,000 page views to nearly 45,000 unique users.
- In the week preceding the election, the site averaged nearly 1.5 million hits, 366,000 page views and 27,000 unique visitors per day.

Awards & Recognition

- Webby Award for Best Politics Site: 2007, 2006, 2002, 2001
- PC Magazine: Top 101 “Classic” Sites
- Forbes: Best of the Web
- Yahoo!: Daily Pick
- National Press Club: Distinguished Contribution to Online Journalism

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