



The **National Institute on Money in State Politics** is a nonpartisan 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization dedicated to the accurate, comprehensive and unbiased documentation and research of campaign finances at the state level. Our complete 50-state database of political donors stretches back to 1999 and is freely available at *FollowTheMoney.org*. The Institute provides the state campaign contribution data for MAPLight.org's California Legislature website, which launched in October 2006.

Each election cycle, the Institute posts:

- \* 90,000 campaign-disclosure reports from *all* 50 states documenting political giving to 18,000 legislative, gubernatorial and other candidates and committees, including party and nonbond ballot measure committees. An election cycle database generally totals more than 3.2 million records that record \$2.5 billion in contributions.
- \* frequent reports on topics such as the tax and expenditure limits (TABOR) measures in eight states in 2006; a coordinated effort to push gay-marriage bans by ballot measure in 2004; contributions by Merck & Co. to promote new products; and giving by high-interest, same-day lenders across the country.

First launched as a regional project in the 1990s, the Institute became a national organization in 1999. Throughout the years, as our expertise and database grew, we have become the nation's leading source of comprehensive state-level information. Our data and reports are routinely cited by major news outlets, as well as by radio journalists and statehouse reporters.

The Institute is also pioneering new avenues to make its unique database available to the public:

- \* **APIs** (application program interfaces) and widgets now allow unprecedented access to the data at *FollowTheMoney.org*. Simple computer programs enable any Web user to create graphic displays on their own sites that display Institute data. Through the APIs, the data is updated every time the Institute adds data to its collection. The Unfluence project ([www.unfluence.primate.net](http://www.unfluence.primate.net)), which maps political contribution networks, is a recent example of how our APIs allow researchers to make new connections using our data.
- \* **visual displays of data**, such as our PULSE charts, highlight connections between incumbency or campaign-finance regulations and fund-raising success. A 50-state map, **m(c)**<sup>50</sup>, illustrates the disparities in competitiveness in state-level races through the years.