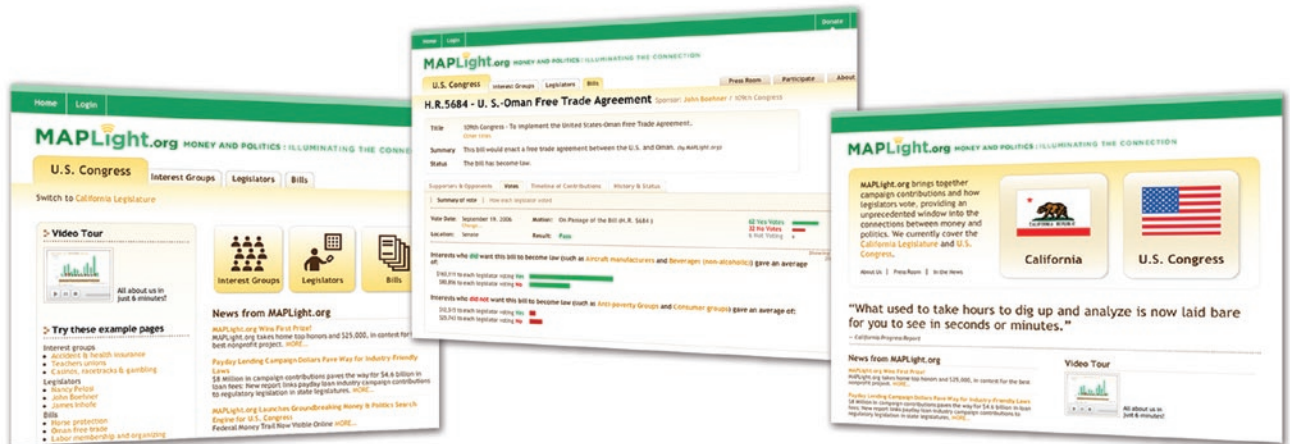


ABOUT MAPLight.org

"[N]obody has ever revealed the relationship between money given and votes cast to quite such a startling effect."

– David Pogue, New York Times



MAPLight.org shines a light on legislators, interest groups, and bills—for U.S. Congress, California, and more states to come.

MAPLight.org, a groundbreaking public database, illuminates the connection between campaign donations and legislative votes in unprecedented ways.

Elected officials collect large sums of money to run their campaigns, and they often pay back campaign contributors with special access and favorable laws. This common practice is contrary to the public interest, yet legal.

MAPLight.org makes money/vote connections transparent, revealing key money and politics information that could never before be determined easily. We are a tool for journalists, issue-oriented groups, bloggers, and citizen leaders to hold legislators accountable.

For example, on May 7, 2007, the U.S. Senate passed an amendment to prevent consumers from buying prescription

drugs from abroad. MAPLight.org shows that the pharmaceutical industry gave an average of \$70,000 to each Senator voting Yes on this amendment—more than 2.5 times the average the industry gave to each Senator voting No.

This correlation between money and votes used to take hours or days to research manually. Now it is available to anyone at the click of a mouse.

Interests who **did** want this bill to become law (such as **Pharmaceutical manufacturing**) gave an average of:

\$70,181 to each legislator voting **Yes**

\$25,914 to each legislator voting **No**

MORE EXAMPLES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT MAPLIGHT.ORG:

Casino and gambling interests contributed \$35,000 over four years to the Speaker of the California Assembly, Fabian Núñez, Of the 44 bills the gambling industry lobbied on in a legislative session, Núñez voted with the industry interest 95% of the time.

California Assembly-member Alan Nakaniishi voted against health regulation of bottled water on June 4, 2003—the day after he received a \$1,000 contribution from the California/ Nevada bottled water trade association.

For a brief demonstration of the site, visit www.maplight.org and click "Video Tour"

“...a preview of the next generation of money and politics reporting.”

– The Sunlight Foundation

Accomplishments

- Launched groundbreaking transparency websites for California (Oct. 2006) and U.S. Congress (May 2007). Continue to update and extend sites with “real-time” data.
- Created and released report Local Politics, Remote Money (Nov. 2006) – revealed that 78% of contributions to California legislators came from outside their districts.
- Created and released report Payday Lending, Money and Politics (May 2007). Examined campaign contributions and successes for the predatory lending industry in seven states.
- Won First Prize at the NetSquared Technology Innovation Awards (May 2007) – best of 152 nonprofit projects worldwide, judged on social impact, technical innovation, and sustainability.

AUDIENCES

Journalists

MAPLight.org provides simple access to compelling, objective data. Now journalists can report on real correlations between the money legislators get and the way they vote, eliminating conjecture. Our primary-sourced data makes it possible to bring the issue of campaign finance reform into coverage of any issue, easily and naturally.

Issue-Oriented Groups

Advocacy groups working on education, the environment, health care, and other issues can now find and cite money and politics data central to their causes. Using MAPLight.org money/votes data makes these groups more effective, while also educating their audiences about the connection between campaign contributions and the specific issues people care about.

Bloggers and Citizen Leader

Bloggers and “grasstops” citizen leaders use MAPLight.org’s customization and analysis tools to highlight specific details and easily share their findings, educating the public about specific issues and their links to campaign finance.

PARTNERS

MAPLight.org is a partner of the **Center for Responsive Politics** and the **National Institute on Money in State Politics**. We combine these groups’ contribution data with government records and our own research. MAPLight.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, free public service.

“Tread carefully, politicians—concerned citizen are watching your every move on the web.” – Wired.com