



# MUTTERINGS...



Keeping Benton County Voters Informed

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## The Challenge for PCOs... Will You Lead Them

I hope your door-belling is bringing successful results in additional voter registrations and that you are finding that Conservatives are much more plentiful than you ever suspected they would be. Instead of "news," I thought in the heat of summer and as the politics of our country continues to HEAT up, you might use some encouragement.

You have been elected to an office of influence that the pundits and contributors seem to find very enviable because you have what they cannot produce—eye-to-eye contact with voters. You ARE a leader. You may think of yourself as being in a small position of influence, but actually your direct contact with voters puts you at the head of the line for influence. The sleeping giant of conservative voters needs someone to put their trust in so they will get back into the voting booth and make their voices heard. Many conservatives have been tricked into thinking that they are standing alone and there is no possible use in voting. In actuality, their sheer numbers are quite intimidating to the opposition.

✓ It is miraculous that conservatives are still given the label of "right." Remember, there is a lot about being "right" that is worth standing up for. It is not selfish to care about "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The reason that knowing what is right empowers you to become a leader is that it attunes your behavior to a standard that is beyond your personal wishes and reaches into what is good, lasting, and up-building for all people. The Constitution, as the law of this land, is the citizens' contract with their government and was established in order to guarantee the people's participation in their own self governance. "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

✓ Each of us knows social conservatives who are not voting even though they see plainly that this country is slipping into tyranny. These people can be turned into informed voters with your help. One opportunity involves your church, if you belong to one, and if "your Biblical worldview sparks a passion for truth and the culture." The Family Policy Institute of Washington has a training program for those who want to serve as what they call a "Liaison" to help them "learn how to equip, inform and edify your church family, Biblically." (<http://www.fpiw.org/events/church-liaison-trainings/>) No matter what your office, or especially for students, the Leadership Institute (LI) has training videos that will further your ability to carry out your job. "LI provides training in campaigns, fund-raising, grassroots organizing, youth politics, and communications. The Institute teaches conservatives of all ages how to succeed in politics, government, and the media." (<http://www.leadershipinstitute.org/training/>)

✓ Everywhere the detractors in this Nation attempt to stir up bitterness toward one group of citizens or another. Yet this more than ever illustrates that the only real victories are on the side of freedom, justice, equality and respect. This means that in or out of any particular elected office we all participate in maintaining civilization every day of our lives. The really neat thing for a precinct officer is that you will meet a LOT of like-minded people in your neighborhood who have your same concerns and desires to participate that you do. It will mean a lot to you as well as to them to find a way to participate and influence your own governance. David Horowitz, of The Freedom Center, says that his biggest surprise after leaving the radical left movement was finding that in the conservative camp people were so refreshingly "nice."

✓ You will see again and again that when numbers start counting up as people ask their Legislators for justice, the grassroots voices sway political opinions. Together, along with some of our think tanks that have the resources to stay abreast of legislative activity, those calls to our legislators do make a difference. Most voters need to be trained in putting the pleasant pressure on their legislators to encourage law making guided by justice, peace, and equality.

✓ Find a way to support your favorite Presidential candidate, NOW. I don't mean "send money." I mean get in contact with his campaign in one way or another to let him know that he would have your vote when the election comes. Let him know you are in touch with your precinct voters and if they seem likely to support him also. Although your money can help with his campaign it doesn't compete with the millions of dollars that Political Action Committees throw around, but knowing he has your support will give him the encouragement to stay engaged.

The bottom line for Conservative PCOs is that our time and our office is our contribution to the political fray. Our goal should be to empower the voice of "grassroots" to speak.



### Calendar

Central Committee will be meeting on Thursday, August 6

Benton PUD Auditorium in Kennewick on 10th St. where it intersects with Highway 395

(If you cannot attend be sure to make arrangements for a proxy to attend in your place at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.)

Benton-Franklin County Fair - August 25-29

Sign up for a three hour time slot to meet your neighbors and to keep our Benton County Republicans' booth open during the fair



### PROVERBS ...for our troubled times

Better is a little with righteousness, than vast revenues without justice. Proverbs 16:8 (NKJV)

Government is merely a servant – merely a temporary servant; it cannot be its prerogative to determine what is right and what is wrong, and decide who is a patriot and who isn't. Its function is to obey orders, not originate them. [Mark Twain, in *The Bible According to Mark Twain*]

This newsletter is published and distributed by Karen Batishko, the current precinct committee officer for Benton County Precinct 1365, as well as the 16<sup>th</sup> state legislative district representative on the Benton County Republican Party Executive Committee. It's purpose is to keep voters informed of legislative activity, and how their own District 16 elected officials are acting on their behalf. She may be contacted by email at [pcol365@gmail.com](mailto:pcol365@gmail.com), or by phone at 509-628-8442.

# The High Cost of Buying Government Influence

## #1 “Deep pocketed donors” labeled as “political gatekeepers”

This chart illustrates the total individual giving for the 2014 election cycle. Russ Choma, of The Center for Responsive Politics reported on May 13, 2015:

- All together, in the election year 2014, donors gave \$4.01 billion.
- Data show that increasingly more money comes from fewer and fewer people.
- 31,000 donors giving the largest contributions represent only “one percent of one percent [1 in 10,000] of the U.S. population.”
- This 0.01 percent of people are giving nearly 30 percent, (\$1,150,000,000,) of the total political individual contributions.
- Of these 31,000 donors, the smallest contribution was \$8,810; “but the most generous donors who make up the .01 percent gave a median donation of \$37,600.”
- In order to succeed candidates, parties, and PACs each needed the cash of the politically active “elite.”

<https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2015/05/more-top-heavy-more-republican-the-one-percent-of-the-one-percent-over-time/>

**Individual Contributions,**  
2014 Two-Year Mid-Term Election Cycle  
**TOTAL: \$4,100,000,000**

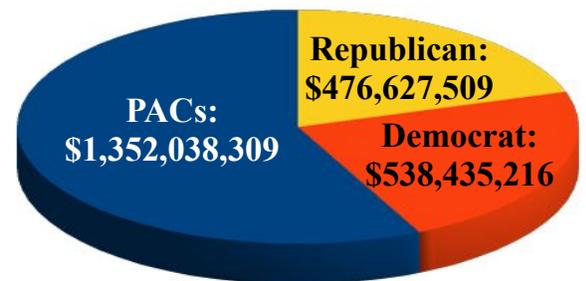


## #2 Earning a return on your “investment”

The \$4.1 billion total contributions in first graph is a total for the gifts of individual donors. The second graph reports the portions of this giving that went to the two major political parties and the amount by which they are dwarfed by the donations to the Political Actions Committees. According to the Federal Election Commission's (fec)Website (<http://fec.gov/pindex.shtml>)

- The Democrats and the Republicans together received \$1,033,167,024 to support candidates in the 2013-14 midterm election cycle.
- In the same period, PACs received more than twice as much as either of the Political Parties.
- Center for Responsive Politics ([www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)) Reports the 2013-14 election cycle as “the most expensive midterm election in U.S. history.”

**PACs and Party Receipts**  
2014 Two-Year Mid-Term Election Cycle  
**TOTAL: \$2,367,101,034**



The trouble is this money isn't given to candidates but is “invested” with them with expectations of favors in return. Thus through such programs as Import/Export Bank, other corporate welfare, the “Climate Change” research program, the Food and Drug Administration licensing kickback fees, and many other crony handouts this money ends up adding to the national debt in unnecessary “pork barreling.”

## #3 One Example of Payback

The Sunlight Foundation is one place to read about some of the effects of elite political giving. In a blog of 2013 they reported “a tax loophole [was] included in the last minute legislation that averted the so-called fiscal cliff. . . Among the many tax breaks for special interests included in that measure was a production credit for Hollywood studios that will drain about \$320 million from the Treasury, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. Time Warner, Walt Disney and Comcast, now a huge producer of content thanks to its acquisition of NBC/Universal, were all among Obama's top 20 donors, and the industry gave his campaign \$6.9 million--the ninth highest total.”

(<http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/02/12/sotu-2013/>)

The Comcast Corporation PAC, makes an interesting study in “investing” in politics. For example, in the first two months of this year they distributed 63 campaigning gifts.

- One third of those distributions went to various PACs. In this way direct donor-ship is well masked.
- Comcast Corporation PAC gave to the Patty Murray Campaign, the Dan Newhouse Campaign, as well as to The Freedom Project PAC, of which Speaker John Boehner serves as honorary chairman, and to New Jersey State Republican Committee as well as the National Republican Senate Committee.

## #4 Also the Cost of Lobbying!

Lobbyist sources are in addition to campaign giving. The largest lobbying clients for the Presidential election of 2012 are listed at the left. I do not understand how much or where the cost of lobbying overlaps Campaign giving, but you can see that the amounts are staggering.

**In review:** it becomes painfully obvious that a system built upon buying influence with decision makers will not be supportive of a constitutional conservative who believes that the Law of the Land is the highest priority for its citizens. What favor can you buy from a Legislator or President who insists on a higher moral standard.

Lobbying Clients -Top Spenders	Total gifts 2012
US Chamber of Commerce	\$136,300,000.00
National Assn of Realtors	\$41,464,580.00
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	\$22,569,532.00
American Hospital Assn	\$19,251,200.00
General Electric	\$18,970,000.00
National Cable & Telecommunications Assn	\$18,890,000.00
Pharmaceutical Rsrch & Mfrs of America	\$18,530,000.00
Google Inc	\$18,220,000.00
Northrop Grumman	\$17,540,000.00
AT&T Inc	\$17,460,000.00
American Medical Assn	\$16,505,000.00
Boeing Co	\$15,640,000.00
Southern Co	\$15,580,000.00
Lockheed Martin	\$15,347,350.00
Verizon Communications	\$15,220,000.00
Comcast Corp	\$14,750,000.00
National Assn of Broadcasters	\$14,510,000.00
Royal Dutch Shell	\$14,480,000.00
United Technologies	\$14,454,750.00
Business Roundtable	\$13,890,000.00

<http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/top.phpshowYear=2012&indexType=s>