

Congressional Campaign Finance Study

Please answer as many of the following questions as possible by marking the appropriate space or filling in the blank provided. Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your time and assistance.

1. What are your views on the following political issues?
- | | Strongly
Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly
Disagree |
|--|-------------------|-------|---------|----------|----------------------|
| a. Taxes should be cut even if it means reducing public services. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| b. Homosexuals should be allowed to teach in the public schools. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| c. The U.S. needs a comprehensive national health insurance program. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| d. Abortion should be outlawed except to save the mother's life. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| e. The federal government should spend more to reduce poverty and hunger in the U.S. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| f. More environmental protection is needed even if it raises prices or costs jobs. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| g. The country has gone too far in helping blacks and other minorities. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| h. The U.S. should sharply reduce defense spending. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| i. Free trade is important even if it means the loss of U.S. jobs. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| j. The U.S. should return to the gold standard. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| k. Women should have an equal role with men in business, industry, and government. | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
2. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a:
- | Strong
Republican | | | Independent | | | Strong
Democrat |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |

3. How would you describe your political views? What about the views of your U.S. Senators and U.S. House member? If you do not know their views well, please check "Don't Know." **Please fill in the names of your U.S. Senators and U.S. House member.**

	Don't Know	Extremely Liberal	Liberal	Slightly Liberal	Moderate/ Middle of the Road	Slightly Conservative	Conservative	Extremely Conservative
YOURSELF	()	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
_____ Senator	()	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
_____ Senator	()	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
_____ House	()	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)

4. How frequently have you **contributed money** to candidates, parties or PACs, **AND** how frequently have you **worked** for any of them (for example by organizing fundraisers or rallies)?

	CONTRIBUTED TO:			WORKED FOR:		
	Most Elections	Some Elections	Never	Most Elections	Some Elections	Never
a. Presidential candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
b. U.S. Senate candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
c. U.S. House candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
d. State/local candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
e. Political parties	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
f. PACs	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)

5. Have you ever asked other people to make a contribution to any of the following?
- | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------------|---------|--------|
| Presidential candidate | (1) Yes | (2) No | Congressional candidate | (1) Yes | (2) No |
| Party committee | (1) Yes | (2) No | PAC | (1) Yes | (2) No |
6. In 1996, approximately how many candidates for the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives **ASKED** you for a campaign contribution?
- () None () One () Two to five () Six to ten () More than ten
7. In 1996, approximately how many candidates for U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representative **DID YOU** contribute to?
- () None () One () Two to five () Six to ten () More than ten
8. In 1996, approximately **HOW MANY** U.S. House or U.S. Senate candidates did you contribute to in the following dollar ranges?

_____ \$200 or less _____ \$201 to \$500 _____ \$501 to \$999 _____ \$1000

9. If you **DID CONTRIBUTE** to any U.S. House or U.S. Senate candidates in 1996, **please list the names and states of candidates you contributed to** (list no more than three). Please answer the following questions by marking all spaces that apply for each candidate listed.

WAS THE REQUEST:	from someone you knew personally?	an invitation to an event?	in person?	by mail?	by phone?
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
a. _____ name (state)	()	()	()	()	()
b. _____ name (state)	()	()	()	()	()
c. _____ name (state)	()	()	()	()	()

10. Please list names and states of U.S. House or U.S. Senate candidates **WHO ASKED YOU** for a contribution in 1996, but to whom you **DID NOT** contribute (list no more than three). Please answer the following questions by marking all spaces that apply for each candidate listed.

WAS THE REQUEST:	from someone you knew personally?	an invitation to an event?	in person?	by mail?	by phone?
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
a. _____ name (state)	()	()	()	()	()
b. _____ name (state)	()	()	()	()	()
c. _____ name (state)	()	()	()	()	()

11. If you are **asked** to make a contribution by people you **KNOW PERSONALLY**, how well do the following statements describe the occasions on which you **make** contributions?

WHEN ASKED BY:	I CONTRIBUTE:			
	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
a. Friend or relative	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
b. A candidate	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
c. A member of a candidate's staff	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
d. Co-worker or member of my profession	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
e. Someone I do business with	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
f. Someone in my place of worship	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
g. Someone in a social group I belong to	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
h. Someone in a political group I belong to	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
i. Someone in my political party	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)

12. How important are the following factors in your decision to make a contribution to a U.S. House or U.S. Senate candidate?

	Always Important	Sometimes Important	Seldom Important
a. Candidate is from my district or state	(1)	(2)	(3)
b. I know the candidate personally	(1)	(2)	(3)
c. Candidate's liberalism-conservatism	(1)	(2)	(3)
d. So my business will be treated fairly	(1)	(2)	(3)
e. Candidate is in a close race	(1)	(2)	(3)
f. Asked by someone I know personally	(1)	(2)	(3)
g. Candidate's party	(1)	(2)	(3)
h. Candidate is friendly to my industry or work	(1)	(2)	(3)
i. Candidate is likely to win the election	(1)	(2)	(3)
j. Asked by someone I don't want to say no to	(1)	(2)	(3)
k. Candidate's position on a specific issue	(1)	(2)	(3)
l. Involves an event I want to attend	(1)	(2)	(3)
m. Candidate's opponent is unacceptable	(1)	(2)	(3)
n. People in my line of work are giving	(1)	(2)	(3)
o. A group I respect supports the candidate	(1)	(2)	(3)
p. Candidate's seniority, committee or leadership position	(1)	(2)	(3)

13. How important to you are the following reasons for making a campaign contribution to U.S. House and U.S. Senate candidates?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important
a. To influence the policies of government	(1)	(2)	(3)
b. It is expected of someone in my position	(1)	(2)	(3)
c. For business or employment reasons	(1)	(2)	(3)
d. Enjoyment of the friendship and social contacts	(1)	(2)	(3)
e. To make a difference in the outcome of an election	(1)	(2)	(3)
f. It gives me a feeling of recognition	(1)	(2)	(3)
g. To support a candidate or cause	(1)	(2)	(3)

14. Please rate the following individuals, groups, or organizations on a scale from **0 to 100**, where **0** is **most unfavorable**, **100** is **most favorable**, and **50** is **neutral**, and you may use the entire 0 to 100 scale. If you have no opinion or knowledge of the person or group, please place an **X** on the line.

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. Bill Clinton _____ | e. Liberals _____ | i. Republican Party _____ |
| b. Newt Gingrich _____ | f. Conservatives _____ | j. Democratic Party _____ |
| c. Sierra Club _____ | g. NOW _____ | k. Christian Coalition _____ |
| d. NRA _____ | h. AFL-CIO _____ | l. Chamber of Commerce _____ |

15. Are you a member of any of the following kinds of organizations? (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> business | <input type="checkbox"/> gun owner | <input type="checkbox"/> women's |
| <input type="checkbox"/> environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> party | <input type="checkbox"/> fraternal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pro-family | <input type="checkbox"/> conservative | <input type="checkbox"/> community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> civic | <input type="checkbox"/> pro-life | <input type="checkbox"/> liberal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pro-choice | <input type="checkbox"/> professional | <input type="checkbox"/> labor union |
| <input type="checkbox"/> church | <input type="checkbox"/> civil rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian conservative |

16. Have you ever made out a check to a candidate but let an organization deliver it for you?

- (1)No (2)Yes

IF YES, the organization was: _____
name

17. Are any of the following sources of information important to you in deciding which U.S. House or U.S. Senate candidates to contribute to? (Check all that are important.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> political newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> newspapers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> labor unions | <input type="checkbox"/> business, industry, trade groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> candidates, campaigns | <input type="checkbox"/> party organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious groups | <input type="checkbox"/> issue, ideological groups |

18. Are there any **GROUPS** that are especially helpful to you in deciding on candidates to contribute to?

Please list specific names.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
name name name

19. During the last two years, how many members of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, or their staffs have you **CONTACTED**?

- | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| HOUSE | <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> One | <input type="checkbox"/> Two to Five | <input type="checkbox"/> Six to ten | <input type="checkbox"/> More than ten |
| SENATE | <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> One | <input type="checkbox"/> Two to Five | <input type="checkbox"/> Six to ten | <input type="checkbox"/> More than ten |

20. Have you contacted the U.S. House member from your district? (1) No (2) Yes

21. Have you contacted the U.S. Senators from your state? () None () One () Both

22. **I AM PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH:** My U.S. House member (1) Yes (2) No
One of my U.S. Senators (1) Yes (2) No
Both of my U.S. Senators (1) Yes (2) No

23. Please list the names and states of U.S. House members or U.S. Senators you have contacted in the last two years (list no more than three). What was the nature of the contacts? Please mark all statements that apply for each official listed.

	1. _____ name (state)	2. _____ name (state)	3. _____ name (state)
a. To express an opinion on a bill	Yes ()	Yes ()	Yes ()
b. To express an opinion on a policy	()	()	()
c. To seek information on a bill or a policy	()	()	()
d. To seek help for you or your family on a problem	()	()	()
e. To seek help for someone else on a problem	()	()	()
f. For social reasons	()	()	()
g. Did any of the above contacts relate to your job or business?	()	()	()

24. Have you ever done anything to try to influence an Act of Congress? (Check all that apply)

- (1) No **YES, I HAVE:** () Written to Senators or House members
 () Spoken with Senators or House members
 () Spoken with the staff of Senators or House members
 () Worked through a political party
 () Worked through formal groups other than parties
 () Worked through informal groups
 () Testified before Congress

25. What issues particularly interest you?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

26. Do you follow closely the activities of any particular House or Senate committees?

- (1)No (2)Yes

IF YES, which committees?

House: _____

Senate: _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

27. State of residence _____ 28. Year of birth _____

29. Gender: (1) Male (2) Female

30. Race/ethnicity: (1) White (2) Black (3) Hispanic (4) Asian (5) Other

31. Religious denomination: (Please be specific) _____

32. How often do you attend religious services?

(1) More than once a week	(2) Once a week	(3) Several times a month	(4) A few times a year	(5) Seldom/ Never
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33. Education:

(1) High School Or less	(2) Some College	(3) College Graduate	(4) Some Graduate	(5) Graduate Degree _____ degree
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34. Family income:

(1) Less than 50,000	(2) \$50,000- \$99,999	(3) \$100,000- \$249,999	(4) \$250,000- \$500,000	(5) Above \$500,000
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35. Current occupation (or former if retired):

_____ (1) Current (2) Retired

36. In what **business or industry** do you or did you work? _____

37. As part of your job, are you involved in politics or government? (1)No (2)Yes

IF YES, are you:

(1) Elected/appointed Officeholder	(2) Lobbyist/ Public Relations	(3) Party Official	(4) Political Consultant	(5) PAC Official	(6) Gov't Staffer/ Civil Servant
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

38. When you think about how campaigns are paid for, which statement **BEST** reflects your view of the current campaign finance system?

- (1) It is broken and needs to be replaced.
- (2) It has problems and needs to be changed.
- (3) It has some problems but is basically sound.

(4) It is all right just the way it is and should not be changed.

39. Please indicate your views on each of these statements on the role of money in politics.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Office holders regularly pressure donors for money	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
b. Donors regularly pressure elected officials for favors	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
c. Contributing is a legitimate form of participation	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
d. Most donors are seeking access to government	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
e. Most donors are motivated by ideology	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
f. Money is the single most important factor in elections	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)

40. What are your views on the following campaign finance reforms?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Placing a limit on spending by congressional candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
b. Limit TV advertising of congressional candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
c. Provide public funding for congressional candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
d. Eliminate large “soft money” contributions	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
e. Ban PACs from giving money to congressional candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
f. Allow individuals to make larger gifts to candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
g. Eliminate all limitations and require full disclosure	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
h. Allow parties to make larger gifts to candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i. Give free media time and postage to candidates	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)

41. How might your own contributions to congressional candidates be affected if the following changes were enacted?

	Would you give:		
	More	Same	Less
If PAC contributions were not allowed?	(1)	(2)	(3)
If larger individual gifts were allowed?	(1)	(2)	(3)

Thank you for your time and consideration!