



# Campaign Finance

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\$94,200 is the limit on contributions to the political parties.

\$37,800 is the limit for statewide candidates (the range for primary; from \$6,000 to \$18,100).

\$9,500 for senate candidates (\$6,000 primary).

\$3,800 for assembly candidates (\$3,800 primary).

No limits on donations to “housekeeping” accounts.



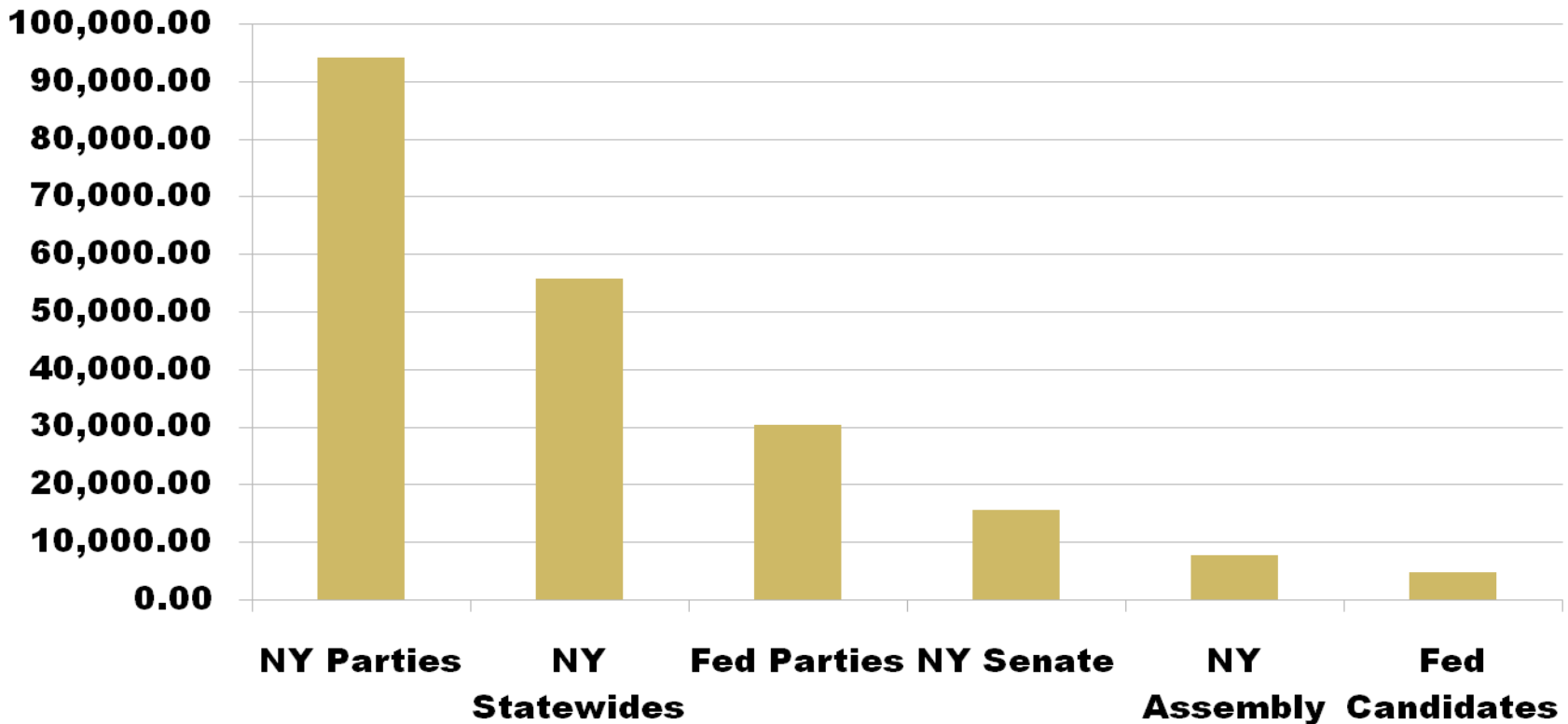
# New York's Limits Compared With The Nation

- Highest limits to statewide candidates of any state with limits (there are five states with no contribution limits).
- Limits are significantly higher than federal limits.
- Limits are much higher than the national averages [\$7,762 for Gubernatorial candidates, \$3,784 for State Senate, and \$3,412 for State House].
- Unlimited "Soft Money" to Party Committees.



# Comparison Of Contribution Limits: State Vs. Federal

**Contribution Limits**

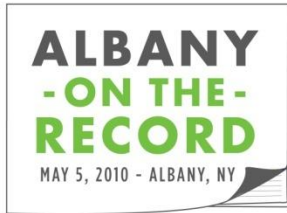




# The Big Picture

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- In 2008, Candidates and Party Committees raised over \$110 million from December 2006 through November 2008 for New York State Legislative Campaigns.
- Legislative committees raised \$41.5 million, and candidates raised nearly \$69 million.



# Legislative Majority Party Candidates Raised The Most Money, 2007-08

| House    | Party                 | Total Raised By Candidates | Total Candidates Who Filed | Avg. Per Candidate |
|----------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Assembly | Dem                   | \$16,253,920.00            | 130                        | \$125,030.16       |
| Assembly | GOP                   | \$5,763,476.60             | 76                         | \$75,835.22        |
| Assembly | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party | \$322,840.49               | 4                          | \$80,710.12        |
| Senate   | Dem                   | \$20,601,511.40            | 52                         | \$396,182.91       |
| Senate   | GOP                   | \$26,013,235.29            | 46                         | \$565,505.12       |
| Senate   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party | \$25,391.94                | 1                          | \$25,391.94        |



# Legislative Majority Party Campaign Committee Fundraising Far Exceeds That Of Minority Party , 2007-08



**Senate Democrats:  
\$8,185,873.00**

**Assembly Democrats:  
\$8,258,563.64**

**Senate Republicans:  
\$21,853,584.88**

**Assembly Republicans  
\$3,267,629.50**



# Categorical Sources Of Contributions

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Businesses, trade associations, or other for-profit corporations</b> | <b>\$38,667,515.43</b>        |
| <b>Individual</b>   | <b>\$27,391,390.86</b>        |
| <b><i>Transfers from Political Parties</i></b>                          | <b><i>\$15,838,829.39</i></b> |
| <b>Unions</b>   | <b>\$13,414,615.36</b>        |
| <b><i>Transfers from Other Candidates</i></b>                           | <b><i>\$10,290,739.97</i></b> |
| <b>Unknown</b>  | <b>\$1,766,623.10</b>         |
| <b>Not for Profit</b>   | <b>\$1,540,661.65</b>         |
| <b>Unitemized</b>   | <b>\$1,020,667.25</b>         |
| <b>Interest</b>   | <b>\$490,884.60</b>           |
| <b>Native American Tribes</b>   | <b>\$124,100.00</b>           |



# Donors Split Their Contributions Evenly Between Republicans And Democrats

All Republican candidates and committees combined raised \$56.7 million.

All Democratic candidates and committees combined raised \$53.3 million.

All other money was raised by third parties.



# Incumbent Advantage

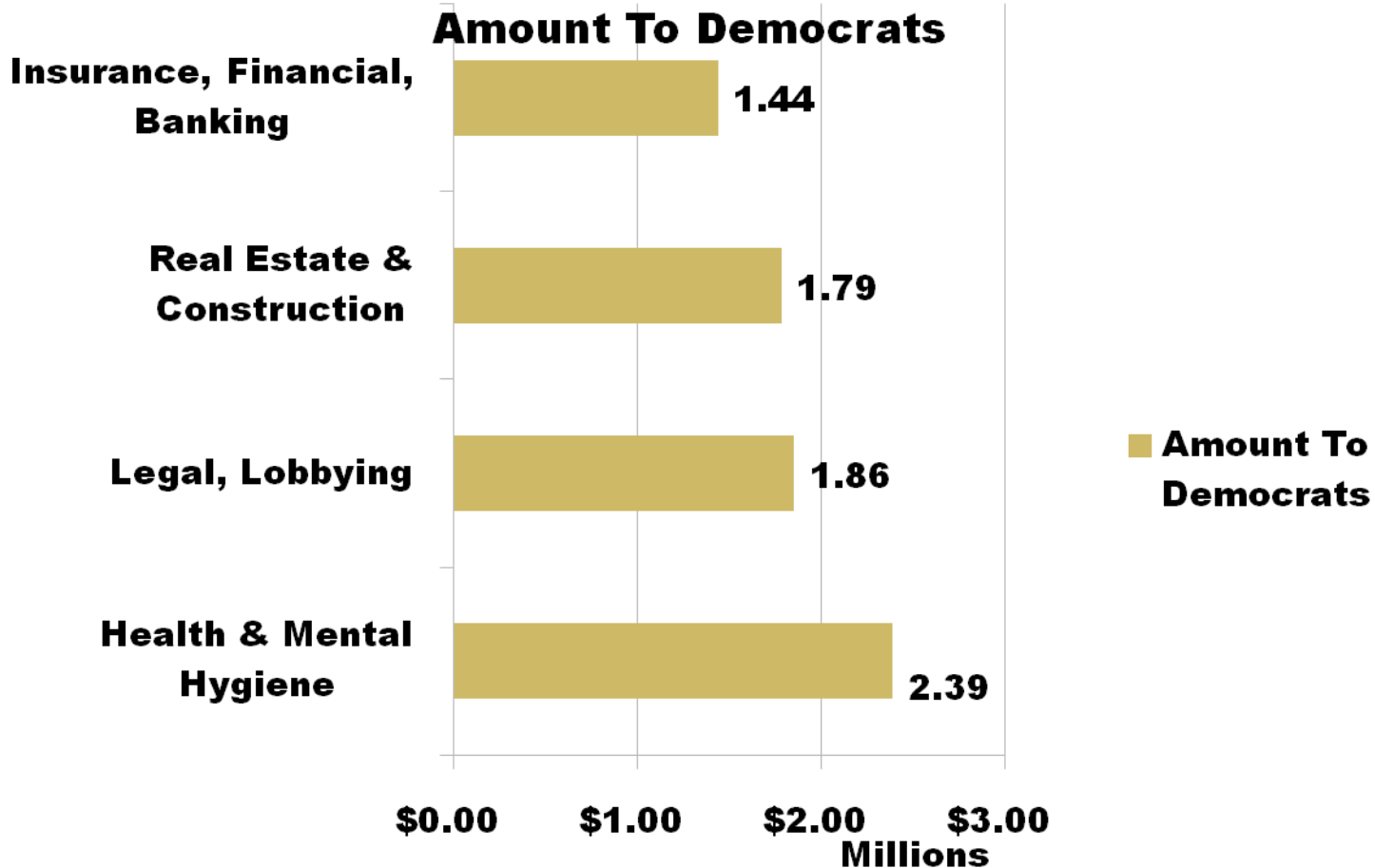
- The 199 incumbents running for re-election in 2008 raised an average of \$261,390.82.
- Only 91 of their opponents raised enough money to create a campaign committee; they raised an average of \$121,238.71.
- Twelve candidates for open seats raised an average of \$432,093.49.
- Only eight candidates who raised *more* contributions than their opponents *lost* in November.
- Twenty-six Assembly races ended with both candidates receiving between 40 and 60 percent of the vote.
- Of these close races, only six featured a higher-spending candidate losing to an underfunded opponent.
- The average amount raised by a victor in a close election is significantly more than the money raised by a losing candidate.



# Power To The Leadership: Conference Committees' Campaign Fundraising

- Legislative leaders' four leadership committees in 2007-08 election cycle received nearly as much from businesses and unions as the candidates for the 212 legislative positions combined.
- A legislative committee is allowed to transfer contributions of any size to the candidate of its choice.

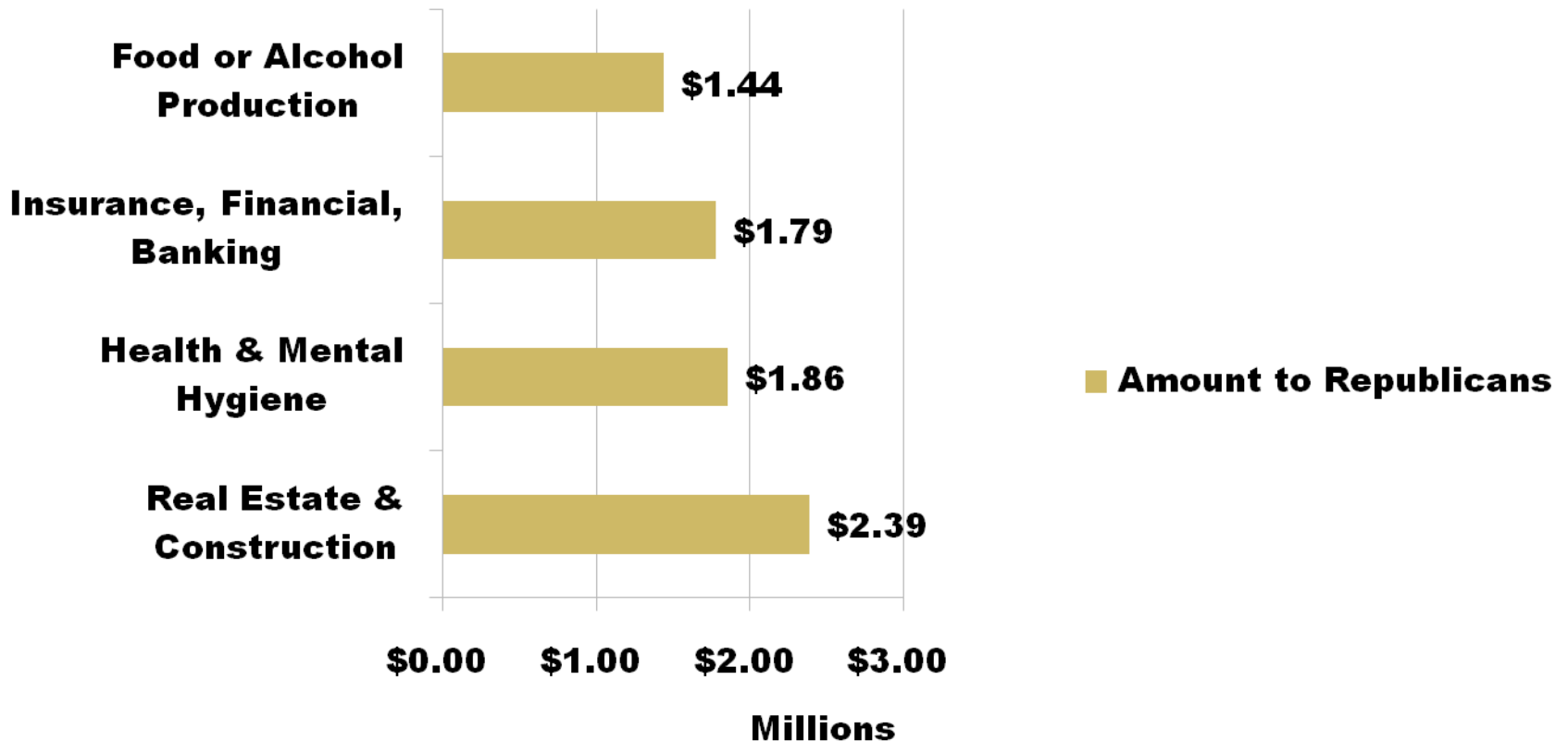
# Top Donors To Democrats





# Top Donors To Republicans

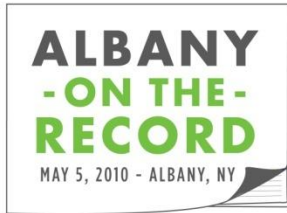
**Amount to Republicans**





# Few New Yorkers Made Campaign Contributions

- Less than 0.2% of New Yorkers over the age of 18 made donations that were reported as contributions to candidates or legislative party committees (over \$99).
- Only 42,038 individuals were reported to have donated.
- 34,916 of these individuals reported addresses in New York.



# Donors By Donation Bracket

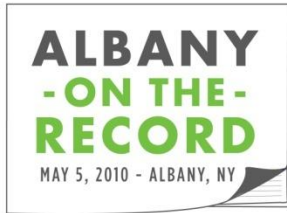
| Type of Donor       | Amount Donated | Number of Donors | Total Given by Category | Percent |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Extremely Large     | \$9,227,499    | 319              | >=\$10,000              | 33.89%  |
| Large               | \$6,852,353    | 1,553            | <\$10,000, >\$2,300     | 25.17%  |
| Large Below Federal | \$4,220,644    | 3,153            | <=\$2,300, >=\$1,000    | 15.50%  |
| Medium              | \$5,114,228    | 13,801           | <\$1,000, >=\$200       | 18.78%  |
| Medium Small        | \$1,351,179    | 11,763           | >\$200, <=\$100         | 4.96%   |
| Small               | \$461,034      | 11,260           | <\$100                  | 1.69%   |



# Money From Small Donors Has Decreased

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- 2008: 1,872 individuals give more than \$2,300.
- 2000: 710 individuals give more than \$2,300.



# Less Money From Small Donors Than In Federal Elections

| Level           | Spitzer | Faso | Obama | McCain |
|-----------------|---------|------|-------|--------|
| \$1,000 or more | 93%     | 84%  | 47%   | 59%    |
| \$201-999       | 5%      | 11%  | 27%   | 20%    |
| \$200 or less   | 2%      | 5%   | 26%   | 21%    |



# Limits On Reform

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- Contribution limits are constitutional, but cannot be too low.
- Cannot limit “free speech” spending, as long as it’s not coordinated with candidates (*Citizens United*)
- Public financing can only be voluntary.