

Campaign Contribution Limitation

At the September 1, 2010 Board meeting I expressed my concern that WCCUSD has no campaign contribution limitation for elections for Board candidates, bond measures or parcel tax measures. At that meeting, I suggested three action steps:

1. **Board of Education Workshop** – After the last meeting President Kronenberg was quoted in the newspaper that, “the Board needs to think about” this issue. Board Member Medrano was also quoted suggesting that the Board discuss this matter in more depth at its next retreat or study session.
2. **Study of Campaign Contributions** – this study has started. Preliminary results will be reported tonight.
3. **Ask candidates to pledge to adopt a contribution limit**

Support limit: Mr. Cowens, Mr. Freeman, and Ms. Merriweather

Do not support limit: Ms. Kronenberg and Mr. Ramsey

No response: Ms. Miles

Mr. Ramsey has received contributions of \$98,050 all from labor unions. These unions are located throughout California and in Washington, DC. None of these unions are located in the District. The largest contribution was \$15,000.

Ms. Kronenberg has received contributions of \$67,397 of which \$51,500 was from eight firms that do business with the District. The largest contribution was \$15,000.

Mr. Cowens has received \$990.

Ms. Merriweather has received \$829.

As of yesterday, Mr. Freeman and Ms. Miles have not filed their contribution reports.

During the period of the study (January 2002 to June 2010) a total of \$2,596,000 was contributed to candidates and For the Children of West County as follows:

Category	Amount	Percent
Firms doing business with WCCUSD	\$1,181,000	46
Unions	839,000	32
Firms not doing business with WCCUSD	485,000	19
Individuals	90,000	3
Parent Teacher Organization	1,000	—
Total	\$2,596,000	100

Firms doing business with WCCUSD made contributions of \$1,181,000 or 46% of the total contributions. Ten companies doing business with WCCUSD contributed \$893,000 or 76% of that total. These same ten companies were awarded by WCCUSD contracts valued at \$139,200,000:

Company	Amount of Contributions	Amount of WCCUSD Contracts
The Seville Group	\$330,000	\$46,200,000
WLC Architects	272,000	40,400,000
Hibser Yamauchi Architects	49,000	10,400,000
Powell & Partners Architects	77,000	8,600,000
First Student/Laidlaw	18,000	7,200,000
Deems, Lewis, McKinley	61,000	6,700,000
Baker Vilar Architects	37,000	6,100,000
Don Todd and Associates	25,000	5,200,000
Richmond Sanitary Services	11,000	4,700,000
Miller, Brown & Dennis	13,000	3,700,000
Total	\$893,000	\$139,200,000

Unions made contributions of \$839,000 or 32% of the total contributions. Of this total \$776,000 were made by twenty-eight (28) unions located in cities outside of the District: Alameda, Benica, Burlingame, Concord, Dimond Bar, Dublin, El Monte, Fresno, Hayward, Livermore, Martinez, Napa, North Hollywood, Oakland, Pasadena, Pleasant Hill, Pleasanton, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Rafel, San Ramon, Vallejo, Ventura, Washington, DC, and Whitter.

This is a preliminary report on the study results to date. Contributions received for the period July to September 2010, that were due yesterday at the Contra Costa County Election Division, need to be added to the contributions data base. In addition, the following issues need to be studied:

- What interest do the twenty-eight unions from throughout California and Washington, DC have in our bond elections?
- Is there a relation of union support for bond elections and the promotion of project labor agreements throughout California?
- What is the relationship, if any, of campaign payments to individuals who endorse bond and parcel tax measures?
- What are the legal and ethical issues, if any, of elected District officials soliciting and accepting contributions from firms doing business with WCCUSD?
- Survey of Board candidates 1991 to 2010.
- Survey of firms doing business with WCCUSD.

This report and the database are available at www.Districtguide.org.

This is my report for tonight.

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