



## Alameda City 2022 Campaign Contributions

*November 8, 2022 election*

### **Introduction: Should Big Money Influence Alameda Elections?**

Should officeholders in Alameda be selected by individual voters on the Island, or by deep-pocket individuals and organizations outside the city?

Most local folks would express a strong preference for the former, but it arguably doesn't reflect current reality. An analysis of campaign contributions during the November 2020 general election by the League of Women Voters Alameda (LWVA) shows why:

- \$4 of every \$10 contributed came from outside the city.
- \$6 of every \$10 came from groups rather than individuals.
- \$7 of every \$10 came in the form of contributions of \$1,000 or more.

Why is this a problem? The League's analysis of the last five races for City Council showed that the candidate raising the most funds won a seat in every race from 2012 to 2020. While others with less funding won seats during the time period, it appears that a strong correlation exists between money raised and votes cast. That means that large campaign contributors can affect the outcome of an election and thus the composition of governing bodies.

We've explored means of regulating the flow of funds to candidates and measures, but most available options serve only to drive the money underground. If special interest groups cannot give money to their preferred candidate, they will simply funnel the funds through Independent Expenditure Committees (IECs) that can support their preferred candidate so long as they don't coordinate directly with them.

If regulating contributions is not a solution, what is? We believe the answer is to put the responsibility for controlling campaign funding in the hands of the Alameda electorate by giving you the information you need to determine when candidates become too dependent on special interest funding for the city's good. You can participate in that effort by looking at the information we are posting for the upcoming election as well as those of the past few cycles.

The graphics compare campaign funds by the location of contributor, the type of contributor and the size of contributions. Tables for each candidate or ballot measure itemize contributions of \$1,000 or more. We also track loans received by candidates and money spent by independent expenditure committees on their behalf. After the election, we will show the amount each campaign spent per vote received.

Any decision to vote for a candidate should include knowing where their funding is coming from and how that might influence their positions on public policy. We hope the information in the links below will help you do that and inform your vote.



## Alameda City 2022 Campaign Contributions

### Understanding the Charts

- The charts cover all contributions made to candidates from the time they created campaign finance committees for the November 2022 election. These start dates will vary by candidates.
- The totals reflect all contributions reported on California Form 460 for the November 8, 2022 election between the time the committee was formed and September 29, 2022 as posted on the [City of Alameda website](#).
- The charts will be updated after subsequent filing deadlines on October 27, 2022 and January 31, 2023.
- The data reflect both monetary and non-monetary contributions in excess of \$100 from any one source. Contributions of less than \$100 are not itemized and are therefore not reflected in the totals except as noted in the Contributions by Size graphs.
- The total contributions to individual candidates do not reflect amounts spent on their behalf by Independent Expenditure Committees. If the candidates are not coordinating this support, they are not required to include it as a financial contribution to their campaign. We describe the amounts collected and spent by Independent Expenditure Committees in a table following the list of large contributors and loans.
- Categories of information in the charts (type of contributor, location of contributor and size of donation) are the same categories used to record the information in the 460s; we have labeled the categories somewhat differently for clarity. Contributions from special purpose PACs connected to unions or businesses have been categorized as union or business based on the source; contributions from general purpose PACs are listed as political.
- Location is determined by the mailing address listed for the contributor in the filing forms. If the contribution came from a group, the address of the group rather than its individual members determines how the contribution is categorized by location.