



Press Release

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Developers are biggest donors in San Diego elections CPI analysis reveals campaign contributions by industry

The big money in this year's San Diego city elections is coming from the real estate and development industry.

Donors connected to real estate and development interests already have given \$228,345 -- far more than any other industry -- to the campaigns for mayor, city attorney and four city council seats. That's 21 percent of the total \$1.08 million the candidates received from donors in 2007. Candidates gave another \$280,105 to their own campaigns.

The [industry analysis](#) by the Center on Policy Initiatives is based on donations made through December, which candidates had to report to the city clerk on Jan. 31. The next filing of donations received since then will be on March 24.

CPI makes all the reported donations available in an online, searchable database called [Follow the Money](#). The [industry categories](#) are assigned based on the occupation and employer information supplied by donors.

Real estate and development was the biggest spending industry in all six contests, topped only by the total for miscellaneous individuals in two races and by the aggregated sector of lawyers, lobbyists and advocacy organizations in the city attorney's race.

The largest chunk of the real estate and development money -- \$90,803 -- has gone to the mayoral race, all of it to incumbent Jerry Sanders, since challenger Steve Francis is self-funding his campaign. Development-connected donors also have given \$49,970 in the District 5 Council race, 94% of it to candidate Carl DeMaio.

Other sectors contributing sizable amounts, and their totals for the six campaigns, include:

- Lawyers, lobbyists and advocacy organizations: \$117,923
- Finance and insurance: \$76,560
- High-tech and biotech: \$62,932
- Business services: \$62,575
- Tourism: \$54,218

Summaries of the contributions received in each race are below. For more details, the [Follow the Money](#) database can be searched by donor name, employer and other factors. Candidates who did not file statements with at least \$1,000 in contributions by Dec. 31 are not included. Loans and independent expenditures by political organizations are not included.

MAYOR			
Industry sectors	Total	Sanders	Francis
Business Services	\$14,640	\$14,640	\$0
Education	\$8,923	\$8,923	\$0
Finance and Insurance	\$26,590	\$26,590	\$0
Government	\$7,240	\$7,240	\$0
Healthcare	\$13,830	\$13,830	\$0
High-tech and Bio-tech	\$23,060	\$23,060	\$0
Media, TV/Radio	\$2,210	\$2,210	\$0
Real Estate and Development	\$90,803	\$90,803	\$0
Tourism	\$21,773	\$21,773	\$0
Other sectors			
Labor	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lawyers, Lobbyists and Advocates	\$33,090	\$33,090	\$0
Non-Profits and other organizations	\$7,290	\$7,290	\$0
Miscellaneous Businesses	\$40,874	\$40,874	\$0
Miscellaneous Individuals	\$52,553	\$52,553	\$0
Candidate	\$50,050	\$50	\$50,000
Total	\$392,926	\$342,926	\$50,000
Total (excluding candidate)	\$342,876	\$342,876	\$0

CITY ATTORNEY					
Industry sectors	Total	Coffey	Goldsmith	Burdick	Aguirre
Business Services	\$520	\$320	\$0	\$0	\$200
Education	\$1,810	\$320	\$0	\$320	\$1,170
Finance and Insurance	\$1,980	\$0	\$960	\$100	\$920
Government	\$3,100	\$150	\$640	\$0	\$2,310
Healthcare	\$1,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,250
High-tech and Bio-tech	\$1,590	\$320	\$0	\$100	\$1,170
Media, TV/Radio	\$230	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$130
Real Estate and Development	\$4,050	\$0	\$3,650	\$0	\$400
Tourism	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300
Other sectors					
Labor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lawyers, Lobbyists and Advocates	\$5,580	\$890	\$1,280	\$1,410	\$2,000
Non-Profits and other organizations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Businesses	\$2,010	\$0	\$0	\$960	\$1,050
Miscellaneous Individuals	\$11,050	\$1,460	\$640	\$740	\$8,210
Unitemized donations < \$100	\$5,918	\$2,698	\$50	\$155	\$3,015
Candidate	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Total	\$40,388	\$6,158	\$7,220	\$3,885	\$23,125*
Total (excluding candidate)	\$39,388	\$6,158	\$7,220	\$3,885	\$19,459

*Aguirre total includes \$16,896 donated in 2007 toward debts from 2004 election

DISTRICT 1				
Industry sectors	Total	Merrifield	Thalheimer	Lightner
Business Services	\$8,890	\$2,360	\$2,940	\$3,590
Education	\$6,420	\$810	\$2,160	\$3,450
Finance and Insurance	\$8,775	\$3,440	\$4,695	\$640
Government	\$2,375	\$270	\$1,365	\$740
Healthcare	\$3,430	\$1,180	\$1,610	\$640
High-tech and Bio-tech	\$6,335	\$2,510	\$2,545	\$1,280
Media, TV/Radio	\$640	\$270	\$370	\$0
Real Estate and Development	\$17,155	\$5,470	\$8,585	\$3,100
Tourism	\$1,955	\$1,210	\$645	\$100
Other sectors				
Labor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lawyers, Lobbyists and Advocates	\$9,770	\$1,350	\$4,360	\$4,060
Non-Profits and other organizations	\$1,215	\$100	\$575	\$540
Miscellaneous Businesses	\$16,715	\$4,810	\$7,995	\$3,910
Miscellaneous Individuals	\$35,795	\$3,940	\$8,565	\$23,290
Unitemized donations < \$100	\$4,676	\$350	\$2,572	\$1,754
Candidate	\$78,001	\$45,000	\$33,000	\$1
Total	\$202,147	\$73,070	\$81,982	\$47,095
Total (excluding candidate)	\$124,146	\$28,070	\$48,982	\$47,094

DISTRICT 3					
Industry sectors	Total	Hartline	Hartley	Whitburn	Gloria
Business Services	\$15,301	\$200	\$470	\$4,141	\$10,490
Education	\$8,524	\$270	\$300	3093	\$4,460
Finance and Insurance	\$9,231	\$0	\$250	\$2,490	\$6,491
Government	\$9,660	\$200	\$670	\$3,030	\$5,760
Healthcare	\$14,050	\$280	\$250	\$4,170	\$9,350
High-tech and Bio-tech	\$8,210	\$0	\$370	\$3,105	\$4,735
Media, TV/Radio	\$1,795	\$0	\$0	\$1,010	\$785
Real Estate and Development	\$25,517	\$100	\$1,660	\$3,225	\$20,532
Tourism	\$5,275	\$100	\$250	\$0	\$4,655
Other sectors					
Labor	\$1,160	\$0	\$0	\$790	\$370
Lawyers, Lobbyists and Advocates	\$18,980	\$100	\$300	\$6,135	\$12,445
Non-Profits and other organizations	\$8,331	\$129	\$100	\$1,507	\$6,585
Miscellaneous Businesses	\$14,985	\$225	\$1,510	\$3,150	\$10,100
Miscellaneous Individuals	\$34,935	\$995	\$5,090	16780	\$11,940
Sector undetermined	\$450	\$450	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unitemized donations < \$100		\$0	\$4,355	\$7,612	\$7,536
Candidate	\$15	\$0	\$0	\$15	\$0
Total	\$195,111	\$3,049	\$15,575	\$60,253	\$116,234
Total (excl candidate)	\$195,096	\$3,049	\$15,575	\$60,238	\$116,234

DISTRICT 5				
Industry sectors	Total	Ilko	DeMaio	Lee*
Business Services	\$13,744	\$690	\$12,684	\$370
Education	\$6,563	\$1,878	\$2,080	\$2,605
Finance and Insurance	\$16,025	\$895	\$14,630	\$500
Government	\$4,850	\$500	\$3,860	\$490
Healthcare	\$8,354	\$2,580	\$4,784	\$990
High-tech and Bio-tech	\$13,637	\$1,274	\$11,593	\$770
Media, TV/Radio	\$1,500	\$35	\$1,315	\$150
Real Estate and Development	\$49,970	\$1,240	\$46,970	\$1,760
Tourism	\$12,040	\$540	\$11,500	\$0
Other sectors				
Labor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lawyers, Lobbyists and Advocates	\$20,689	\$620	\$18,809	\$1,260
Non-Profits and other organizations	\$4,010	\$425	\$1,835	\$1,750
Miscellaneous Businesses	\$13,023	\$570	\$10,284	\$2,169
Miscellaneous Individuals	\$17,085	\$3,105	\$7,570	\$6,410
Sector undetermined	\$550	\$450	\$100	\$0
Unitemized donations < \$100	\$2,989	\$0	\$0	\$2,989
Candidate	\$151,039	\$1,280	\$148,759	\$1,000
Total	\$336,068	\$16,082	\$296,773	\$23,213
Total (excluding candidate)	\$185,029	\$14,802	\$148,014	\$22,213

*Mitz Lee has withdrawn from the race.

DISTRICT 7				
Industry	Total	Boling	Daniel	Emerald
Business Services	\$9,480	\$5,135	\$0	\$4,345
Education	\$5,787	\$2,813	\$0	\$2,974
Finance and Insurance	\$13,959	\$8,895	\$0	\$5,064
Government	\$5,250	\$2,180	\$0	\$3,070
Healthcare	\$5,559	\$2,810	\$50	\$2,699
High-tech and Bio-tech	\$10,100	\$7,760	\$0	\$2,340
Media, TV/Radio	\$910	\$270	\$0	\$640
Real Estate and Development	\$40,851	\$30,212	\$0	\$10,639
Tourism	\$12,875	\$10,785	\$0	\$2,090
Other sectors				
Labor	\$3,438	\$0	\$0	\$3,438
Lawyers, Lobbyists and Advocates	\$29,814	\$11,800	\$50	\$17,964
Non-Profits and other organizations	\$3,378	\$988	\$0	\$2,390
Miscellaneous Businesses	\$18,404	\$10,295	\$370	\$7,739
Miscellaneous Individuals	\$35,855	\$19,421	\$0	\$16,434
Sector undetermined	\$365	\$270	\$0	\$95
Unitemized donations < \$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Candidate	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$196,023	\$113,632	\$470	\$81,921
Total (excluding candidate)	\$196,023	\$113,632	\$470	\$81,921