



NAMES IN THE NEWS: ROD BLAGOJEVICH

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INTRODUCTION

Federal agents arrested Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich at his home in Chicago on December 9, 2008 and charged him with one count of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and one count of solicitation of bribery. The charges stem from a federal investigation into public corruption, particularly pay-to-play schemes that exchange political influence, political appointments, or government contracts for substantial campaign contributions.

WHO GAVE?

The National Institute on Money in State Politics first collected campaign finance reports from Rod Blagojevich in 1996 while he was serving in the Illinois House of Representatives. During that election, Blagojevich reported receiving \$55,430 in campaign contributions. He gave up his seat in the latter part of the year, however, after voters elected him to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Institute, which does not collect information on federal candidates,¹ next collected campaign finance data from Blagojevich when he ran for Governor of Illinois in 2002. He raised \$24.8 million that election cycle in an open race, more than one and a half times the amount raised by the previous governor, George Ryan, when he ran for office in 1998. Blagojevich then raised \$10.5 million in 2004, when he was not up for re-election, more than three times what George Ryan raised in 2000 and nearly two and a half times what James Edgar raised in 1996. Blagojevich's campaign collected \$17.6 million to finance his re-election as governor in 2006 and reported raising \$4.4 million in the first half of 2008.²

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY ILLINOIS GOVERNORS, 1996–2008

ELECTION CYCLE	GOVERNOR	TOTAL
2008	Blagojevich, Rod	\$4.4 million
2006	Blagojevich, Rod	\$17.6 million
2004	Blagojevich, Rod	\$10.5 million
2002	Blagojevich, Rod	\$24.8 million
2000	Ryan, George	\$3.3 million
1998	Ryan, George	\$14.7 million
1996	Edgar, James	\$4.3 million
TOTAL		\$79.6 million*

* 2008 totals include money Blagojevich reported raising from January 2007 through June 2008. Any money raised since June 2008 has not yet been reported to the state.

¹ Campaign finance data for federal candidates is collected by the Center for Responsible Politics and may be found at <http://www.opensecrets.org>.

² Since he was not up for re-election in 2008, Blagojevich is not required by state law to file pre-election and post-election reports unless he makes expenditures in excess of \$500 to political committees during the year. As a result, any money he has raised since June 30, 2008 will not be reported to the state until he files a second semi-annual report, due on January 20, 2009.

Blagojevich received 83 percent of his contributions from in-state donors. This percentage is lower than that of previous governors who received 90 percent of their contributions from Illinois. Since 1996, contributors from the District of Columbia have given the majority of out-of-state contributions to Illinois governors. They gave Blagojevich \$3.9 million or 39 percent of his out-of-state contributions. Previous governors, on the other hand, received \$369,638 or 16 percent of their out-of-state contributions from the District of Columbia.

Top Contributing Sectors

The economic sectors contributing the most money to Blagojevich have remained relatively consistent since 2002.

- Finance, insurance and real estate; general business; and lawyers and lobbyists have been among the top five sectors contributing to Blagojevich each year. Although these sectors have rarely been the top-contributing sector, they have provided Blagojevich's committees with a reliable stream of cash.
- Labor has been the top sector contributing to Blagojevich every year except 2004. In that year, labor was only the sixth-largest sector contributing to Blagojevich's campaign. It contributed \$842,225 or 8 percent of all contributions received by Blagojevich that year.
- Party-related contributions accounted for 12 percent of the funds raised by Blagojevich in 2002. Generous donations by party committees and political candidates caused the party sector to be the second-largest sector contributing to Blagojevich that year. Following his election as governor, however, Blagojevich saw a steep decline in contributions from the party sector. Although he had received \$2.9 million from the sector in 2002, he received only \$1.2 million from the sector throughout the following six years.
- Construction has steadily increased its standing among other contributing sectors over the past eight years. In 2002, construction was the sixth-largest sector contributing to Blagojevich. Its standing increased to the third-largest in 2004, and it became the second-largest contributing sector in 2006, where it currently remains.

Labor contributed \$10.2 million from 2001 to 2008, making it the largest overall sector contributing to Blagojevich. Labor contributed more than one and a half times the amount given by the next largest sector, finance, insurance and real estate, which gave \$6 million to Blagojevich during the same period. The third-largest sector was construction, which has contributed \$5.9 million to Blagojevich since 2001.

TOP CONTRIBUTING SECTORS, 2002 ELECTION

SECTOR	TOTAL
Labor	\$4,175,011
Party	\$2,870,205
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$2,715,624
Lawyers and Lobbyists	\$2,369,055
General Business	\$2,345,353
TOTAL	\$14,475,248

TOP CONTRIBUTING SECTORS, 2004 ELECTION

SECTOR	TOTAL
Lawyers and Lobbyists	\$1,678,323
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$1,561,950
Construction	\$1,424,508
General Business	\$918,861
Health	\$899,472
TOTAL	\$6,483,114

TOP CONTRIBUTING SECTORS, 2006 ELECTION

SECTOR	TOTAL
Labor	\$4,247,323
Construction	\$2,096,435
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$1,542,705
Lawyers and Lobbyists	\$1,510,209
General Business	\$1,497,569
TOTAL	\$10,894,241

TOP CONTRIBUTING SECTORS, 2008 ELECTION

SECTOR	TOTAL
Labor	\$937,443
Construction	\$662,698
General Business	\$551,493
Lawyers and Lobbyists	\$315,676
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$201,073
TOTAL	\$2,668,383*

* 2008 totals include money Blagojevich reported raising from January 2007 through June 2008. Any money raised since June 2008 has not yet been reported to the state.

Top Contributors

Top contributors to Blagojevich were overwhelmingly from the labor sector. Unions made up five of his top ten contributors in 2002, three in 2004, seven in 2006 and six in 2008. Unions were also Blagojevich's top four contributors during his re-election campaign in 2006.

- The International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union was the only contributor, union or non-union, to appear on Blagojevich's top 10 contributor list every year since he became governor. It contributed a total of \$758,200 to his campaign, an amount that was far less than Blagojevich's other labor contributors.
- The Service Employees International Union, which contributed \$1.92 million from 2001 to 2008, was the largest overall contributor to Blagojevich. With \$931,722 in contributions, it was also the largest contributor to Blagojevich's re-election campaign in 2006.
- Education-related unions were the second-largest labor contributors to Blagojevich, donating \$1.89 million. Of these labor organizations, the Illinois Federation of Teachers was the largest contributor at \$1.2 million from 2002 to 2008.

The finance, insurance and real estate sector had only two contributors who donated more than \$100,000 to Blagojevich, and only one contributor who was a top 10 contributor to Blagojevich's campaign. Blair Hull, a businessman who made his fortune selling a market making firm to Goldman Sachs, contributed a total of \$467,061 to Blagojevich. He contributed the vast majority of his money in 2002 when he gave \$459,061 to Blagojevich's campaign. Hull, who ran against Barack Obama for a U.S. Senate seat, contributed \$5,000 from his candidate committee to Blagojevich in 2004. He contributed the remaining \$3,000 in 2006. Market Street Bancshares, the holding company for the Peoples' National Bank, contributed \$124,225 to Blagojevich from 2002 to 2008. Their contributions, however, have greatly diminished over the years. They contributed \$62,000 in 2002; \$46,700 in 2004; \$10,500 in 2006 and \$5,000 in 2008.

TOP CONTRIBUTORS, 2002 ELECTION

SECTOR	TOTAL
Democratic Congressional Campaign Cmte/DCCC	\$925,000
Service Employees/SEIU	\$821,494
Illinois Federation of Teachers	\$642,558
Illinois Democratic Party	\$605,190
Illinois Education Association/I-PACE	\$536,671
Hull, Blair	\$459,061
AFSCME Illinois Council 31	\$376,000
Unitemized Donations	\$341,083
CGK Consulting	\$314,500
Teamsters/IBT Drive	\$219,000
TOTAL	\$5,240,557

TOP CONTRIBUTORS, 2004 ELECTION

SECTOR	TOTAL
Illinois Pipe Trades/UA	\$130,000
Development Specialists	\$105,000
Clifford Law Offices	\$100,000
Democratic Governors Association	\$100,000
Illinois Hospital & Health Systems Association	\$100,000
National Material	\$100,000
Illinois Laborers/LIUNA	\$96,250
Teamsters/IBT Drive	\$95,000
Illinois Council on Long Term Care	\$85,000
Illinois Trial Lawyers Association	\$80,860
TOTAL	\$992,110

TOP CONTRIBUTORS, 2006 ELECTION

SECTOR	TOTAL
Service Employees Illinois Council/SEIU	\$908,382
Illinois Federation of Teachers	\$515,669
Illinois Pipe Trades/UA	\$462,482
Laborers/LIUNA	\$350,000
Illinois Hospital & Health Systems Association	\$300,715
Construction & General Laborers Council of Chicago & Vicinity/LIUNA	\$220,000
Clifford Law Offices	\$204,346
Democratic Governors Association	\$200,000
Teamsters/IBT Drive	\$155,000
Illinois Laborers/LIUNA	\$152,250
TOTAL	\$3,468,844

TOP CONTRIBUTORS, 2008 ELECTION

SECTOR	TOTAL
Illinois Pipe Trades/UA	\$230,000
Illinois Laborers/LIUNA	\$150,000
Squier Knapp Dunn Communications	\$105,113
A Finkl & Sons	\$80,000
Service Employees Illinois Council/SEIU	\$80,000
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois/IAFF	\$60,000
Dream World	\$50,000
Lakhani, Mansoor & Shamim	\$50,000
Teamsters Joint Council 25/IBT Drive	\$50,000
Teamsters/IBT Drive	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$905,113*

* 2008 totals include money Blagojevich reported raising from January 2007 through June 2008. Any money raised since June 2008 has not yet been reported to the state.

Contributions from Blagojevich

Rod Blagojevich's campaign committees have contributed only \$23,008 to state-level candidates since 2002. They have not contributed to any state-level political parties. In comparison, James Edgar's committees contributed \$60,332 while he was in office. His contributions included a \$25,000 donation to the Illinois Republican Party. The most generous governor, however, was George Ryan. His committees contributed a staggering \$312,300 from 1999 to 2002. His contributions included a \$16,000 donation to the Illinois Republican Party and a \$40,000 donation to the Republican State Senate Campaign Committee of Illinois.

Blagojevich's committees contributed to only seven candidates while in office, all of whom were Democrats residing in Illinois. Jay Hoffman, a member of the Illinois House of Representatives since 1991, was the top recipient of Blagojevich's money. Blagojevich's committees made one contribution to Hoffman in 2004 for \$193, and five contributions to Hoffman in 2006 totaling \$5,057. Hoffman is the only candidate who received more than \$5,000 from Blagojevich.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BLAGOJEVICH, 2004–2008

CANDIDATE	OFFICE	TOTAL
Jay Hoffman	House of Representatives	\$5,250
Lisa Madigan	Attorney General	\$5,000
Pat Quinn	Lieutenant Governor	\$4,168
Eddie Washington	House of Representatives	\$3,000
Robert Flider	House of Representatives	\$2,500
Rickey Hendon	Senate	\$1,800
Dan Reitz	House of Representatives	\$1,289
TOTAL		\$23,007*

* 2008 totals include money Blagojevich reported raising from January 2007 through June 2008. Any money raised since June 2008 has not yet been reported to the state.

Although he has raised an astonishing \$57.3 million, Blagojevich has contributed a minuscule amount of his own money to his campaigns. He gave \$590 to his campaign in 2004 and \$1,607 to his campaign in 2008. Previous Illinois governors have also contributed little of their own money to their campaigns. James Edgar gave \$5,700 to his campaign from 1994 to 1998 and George Ryan gave \$3,000 to his campaign between 1999 and 2002.