



# **NAMES IN THE NEWS: THOMAS & BERNADETTE NOE**

BY

DENISE ROTH BARBER  
DEC. 1, 2005

The campaign-finance activities of leading Ohio Republicans Tom and Bernadette Noe have been called into question recently, both nationally and in their home state. On Oct. 31, Tom Noe pleaded innocent in federal court to charges of laundering money into President Bush's re-election campaign.<sup>1</sup> Prosecutors allege Noe "laundered \$45,400 into the campaign using 'conduits,' or people he provided money to, in order for them to attend" a Bush-Cheney fund-raiser in October 2003.<sup>2</sup>

Less than two weeks after the federal grand jury's indictment, Tom Noe's campaign-finance activity in state races came into question. Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Moyer publicly raised concerns that a \$1,000 contribution he received from H. Douglas Talbott on July 25, 2004, actually came from Noe.<sup>3</sup> On the same day, Tom Noe gave Moyer \$1,500, reaching the per-election limit of \$2,500 that an individual can contribute to a Supreme Court candidate. Noe has since denied these allegations.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, Tom Noe's wife, Bernadette Noe, was chairman of the Lucas County Republican Party from 2003 to early 2005, during which time the committee received nearly \$190,000 in contributions whose origins the committee is currently trying to identify.<sup>5</sup>

Tom and Bernadette Noe together have contributed nearly \$112,000 to Republican state-level candidates and party committees from 2000 through 2004, increasing their giving each election cycle. In 2004, they gave state-level committees \$56,817. Tom Noe's \$42,500 in 2004 ranked him 20<sup>th</sup> among individual contributors to candidates and party committees; Bernadette ranked 108<sup>th</sup>. In 2002, they gave \$39,330, and in 2000, Tom Noe gave \$15,600.

#### **GIVING BY TOM NOE, 2000-2004**

<b>CYCLE</b>	<b>TO CANDIDATES</b>	<b>TO PARTY COMMITTEES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2004	\$27,500	\$15,000	<b>\$42,500</b>
2002	\$27,879	\$3,750	<b>\$31,629</b>
2000	\$14,600	\$1,000	<b>\$15,600</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$89,729</b>

#### **GIVING BY BERNADETTE RESTIVO NOE, 2000-2004**

<b>CYCLE</b>	<b>TO CANDIDATES</b>	<b>TO PARTY COMMITTEES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2004	\$14,317	\$0	<b>\$14,317</b>
2002	\$7,701	\$0	<b>\$7,701</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,018</b>

<sup>1</sup> Mike Wilkinson and James Drew, "Noe Pleads Not Guilty," *Toledo Blade*, Nov. 1, 2005, [newspaper online]; available from <http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051101/NEWS02/51101001/-1/NEWS>; accessed Nov. 28, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> T.C. Brown, "Chief Justice questions Noe gift, says campaign money was given in secret," *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Nov. 11, 2005, sec. B, p.1.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Jim Tankersley and Joshua Boak, "Origins of \$190,000 puzzle local party," *Toledo Blade*, Oct. 28, 2005 [newspaper online]; available from <http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051028/NEWS09/51028002/1/NEWS>; Internet; accessed Nov. 23, 2005.

From 2000 through 2004, Tom Noe gave nearly \$70,000 to 37 state-level candidates, with contributions ranging in size from \$100 to almost \$8,000. Noe gave the bulk of his money — \$40,979 — to candidates running for the Ohio Legislature. Candidates running for statewide offices received \$15,850, while Supreme Court candidates received \$12,650.

In addition, he gave \$19,750 to three state-level party committees over the three election cycles: \$10,500 to the Republican Senate Campaign Committee; \$8,000 to the House Republican Campaign Committee; and \$1,250 to the state GOP.

Bernadette Noe focused all her giving on candidates, with \$9,700 to Supreme Court candidates, \$7,885 to statewide candidates, and \$4,433 to legislative candidates.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO OHIO CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES, 2000-2004

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>TOM NOE</b>	<b>BERNADETTE NOE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Republican Senate Campaign Committee	\$10,500	\$0	\$10,500
Taft, Bob	\$6,000	\$2,840	\$8,840
House Republican Campaign Committee	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000
Buehrer, Stephen	\$7,979	\$0	\$7,979
Hoops, James	\$4,600	\$2,378	\$6,978
Gardner, Randall	\$6,500	\$0	\$6,500
O'Donnell, Terrence	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$5,500
Montgomery, Betty	\$2,600	\$2,750	\$5,350
Lanzinger, Judith (Supreme Court)	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
Moyer, Thomas J. (Supreme Court)	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
Petro, Jim	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
Roy, Allen	\$2,750	\$805	\$3,555
O'Connor, Maureen (Supreme Court)	\$2,200	\$1,300	\$3,500
Harris, Bill	\$3,200	\$0	\$3,200
Stratton, Evelyn L.(Supreme Court)	\$2,200	\$900	\$3,100
Olman, Lynn	\$2,600	\$0	\$2,600
Deters, Joseph	\$2,250	\$295	\$2,545
Husted, Jon A.	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
Blackwell, J. Kenneth	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Barbosa, Phillip	\$1,600	\$0	\$1,600
Wagoner, Mark	\$1,600	\$0	\$1,600
Ohio Republican Party	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250
Trakas, James Peter	\$1,000	\$250	\$1,250
Voyles-Baden, Cathleen	\$1,100	\$0	\$1,100
Hughes, Jim	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Mettler, Jim	\$700	\$0	\$700
Goulding, Michael R.	\$300	\$300	\$600
Barley, John	\$500	\$0	\$500
Householder, Larry	\$500	\$0	\$500
Iriti, Anthony Paul	\$500	\$0	\$500
Latta, Robert E.	\$500	\$0	\$500
Myers, Christopher	\$00	\$500	\$500
Perz, Sally	\$500	\$0	\$500
Coughlin, Kevin	\$450	\$0	\$450

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>TOM NOE</b>	<b>BERNADETTE NOE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cook, Deborah (Supreme Court)	\$250	\$0	\$250
Gilb, Michael	\$250	\$0	\$250
Muhammed, Armiya	\$250	\$0	\$250
Salerno, Amy	\$250	\$0	\$250
Lipinski, Joseph	\$00	\$200	\$200
Hollister, Nancy P.	\$150	\$0	\$150
Garcia, John	\$100	\$0	\$100
Smith, Geoffrey	\$100	\$0	\$100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$89,729</b>	<b>\$22,018</b>	<b>\$111,747</b>