



NAMES IN THE NEWS: BILL FRIST AND TOM DASCHLE

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U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee made headlines recently when he campaigned actively against his Democratic counterpart, Minority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, who is engaged in a close re-election campaign this year against Republican challenger John Thune.

Frist traveled to South Dakota in May to campaign for Thune, breaking a long-standing, unspoken rule against the leader of one party actively seeking the ouster of his or her counterpart. The rules and decorum are fast changing during this election cycle that is seeing yet another close battle for control of both the U.S. Senate and the White House.

Frist is also supporting Thune's campaign financially, through a \$10,000 contribution from his Volunteer PAC, according to the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics.

But Thune is not the only recipient of Frist's attention. Unanimously elected to replace Trent Lott as Senate Majority Leader in December of 2002, Frist has wasted no time using the powers of his leadership position to amass — and distribute — vital campaign cash to state-level candidates and party committees across the country, as well.

The practice is relatively common among national-level candidates. In fact, while Frist and Daschle are on opposite sides of the political aisle, they are strikingly similar in their ability to raise campaign cash and spread it to state-level political candidates and committees.

These two federal leaders and their committees have given a substantial sum — just shy of \$2 million — to state-level candidates and party committees since 2000.

Since 2000, Frist's Volunteer PAC has contributed \$228,800 to state-level committees across the country. And Daschle — who has held a leadership position in the U.S. Senate since 1995 — has given considerably more, contributing \$1.73 million at the state level since 2000 by way of his committee, the DASHPAC, shorthand for "Dedicated Americans for Senate and House PAC."

SENATOR BILL FRIST AND HIS VOLUNTEER PAC

During the 2002 cycle, Frist's Volunteer PAC gave \$124,550 to state committees in Tennessee. The PAC also supported state candidates and committees beyond the borders of Frist's home state, giving \$24,500 to Republican gubernatorial candidates in four other states — Maryland, New Mexico, New York and Idaho — and \$5,000 to the Florida Republican Party.

The table on the following page details the contributions from Frist's Volunteer PAC to state-level candidate and party committees during the 2002 cycle.

STATE	RECIPIENT	PARTY	OFFICE	DISTRICT	TOTAL
	Tennessee Legislative Campaign Committee	Republican	Party Committee		\$104,000
TN	Hilleary, Van	Republican	Governor	Statewide	\$7,500
TN	Beavers, Mae	Republican	Senate	17	\$2,000
TN	Carter, Bobby	Republican	Senate	27	\$2,000
TN	Ketron, Bill	Republican	Senate	13	\$2,000
TN	Henry, James M.	Republican	Governor	SW	\$1,000
TN	Dahl, Dave	Republican	House	82	\$500
TN	DuBois, J. Thomas	Republican	House	64	\$500
TN	Eldridge, Jimmy	Republican	House	73	\$500
TN	Harrison, Mike	Republican	House	9	\$500
TN	Hensley, Joey	Republican	House	70	\$500
TN	Johnson, Max	Republican	House	78	\$500
TN	Lynn, Susan M.	Republican	House	57	\$500
TN	McMillan, Kim	Democrat	House	67	\$500
TN	Miller, Robert L.	Republican	House	2	\$500
TN	Tracy, Jim	Republican	House	62	\$500
TN	Useton, Carroll	Republican	House	49	\$500
TN	Jones Jr., Ulysses	Democrat	House	98	\$300
TN	Bowers, Kathrym I.	Democrat	House	87	\$250
FL	Florida Republican Party	Republican	Party Committee		\$6,000
MD	Ehrlich Jr., Robert L.	Republican	Governor	Statewide	\$5,000
NM	Sanchez, John A.	Republican	Governor	Statewide	\$5,000
NY	Pataki, George E.	Republican	Governor	Statewide	\$5,000
ID	Kempthorne, Dirk	Republican	Governor	Statewide	\$1,000
2002 TOTAL					\$146,550

By contrast, during the 2000 cycle, Frist kept his state-level contributions in his home state, with \$75,000 from the Volunteer PAC to the Tennessee Republican Party and an additional \$7,250 to state legislative candidates, as detailed in the table below.

RECIPIENT	PARTY	OFFICE	DISTRICT	TOTAL
Tennessee Legislative Campaign Committee	Republican			\$75,000
Butler, Bonnie	Republican	Senate	25	\$1,000
Haile, Ferrell	Republican	Senate	18	\$1,000
Wall, Howard	Republican	Senate	16	\$1,000
Atchley, Ben	Republican	Senate	6	\$500
Clabough, Bill	Republican	Senate	8	\$500
Mobley, Marie	Republican	House	66	\$500
Norris, Mark	Republican	Senate	32	\$500
Ramsey, Ronald	Republican	Senate	2	\$500
Tidwell, Danny	Republican	House	69	\$500
Westmoreland, Keith	Republican	House	2	\$500
Williams, Micheal	Republican	Senate	4	\$500
Stanley, Paul	Republican	House	96	\$250
2000 TOTAL				\$82,250

SENATOR TOM DASCHLE AND HIS DASHPAC

Daschle's DASHPAC was most generous during the 2002 cycle, when the senator himself was not embroiled in a tough re-election campaign. During the 2002 cycle, the PAC gave \$1.4 million — slightly more than \$1 million to 15 party committees in 12 states and about \$361,600 to 201 state candidates.

The table below shows DASHPAC's contributions to state-level candidates and party committees during the 2002 cycle, arranged by highest-receiving state.

STATE	RECIPIENT TYPE	TOTAL
SD	Legislative Candidates	\$9,800
SD	Party Committees	\$260,000
SD	Statewide Candidates	\$175,619
SOUTH DAKOTA TOTAL		\$445,419
MO	Legislative Candidates	\$24,750
MO	Party Committees	\$323,392
MO	Statewide Candidates	\$500
MISSOURI TOTAL		\$348,642
GA	Party Committees	\$227,608
GA	Statewide Candidates	\$12,500
GEORGIA TOTAL		\$240,108
LA	Party Committees	\$97,000
LOUISIANA TOTAL		\$97,000
VA	Legislative Candidates	\$5,000
VA	Party Committees	\$65,000
VA	Statewide Candidates	\$500
VIRGINIA TOTAL		\$70,500
IA	Legislative Candidates	\$20,990
IA	Statewide Candidates	\$27,000
IOWA TOTAL		\$47,990
NH	Legislative Candidates	\$9,250
NH	Party Committees	\$13,020
NH	Statewide Candidates	\$10,000
NEW HAMPSHIRE TOTAL		\$32,270
AR	Party Committees	\$30,000
ARKANSAS TOTAL		\$30,000
IL	Legislative Candidates	\$500
IL	Party Committees	\$6,000
IL	Statewide Candidates	\$14,000
ILLINOIS TOTAL		\$20,500
MI	Legislative Candidates	\$11,000
MI	Party Committees	\$1,000
MI	Statewide Candidates	\$6,200
MICHIGAN TOTAL		\$18,200
NJ	Party Committees	\$15,000
NEW JERSEY TOTAL		\$15,000

STATE	RECIPIENT TYPE	TOTAL
SC	Legislative Candidates	\$1,000
SC	Statewide Candidates	\$10,500
SOUTH CAROLINA TOTAL		\$11,500
NV	Statewide Candidates	\$10,000
NEVADA TOTAL		\$10,000
CA	Legislative Candidates	\$500
CA	Statewide Candidates	\$7,500
CALIFORNIA TOTAL		\$8,000
TN	Statewide Candidates	\$2,500
TENNESSEE TOTAL		\$2,500
AZ	Party Committees	\$1,000
ARIZONA TOTAL		\$1,000
MN	Legislative Candidates	\$1,000
MINNESOTA TOTAL		\$1,000
DE	Statewide Candidates	\$500
DELAWARE TOTAL		\$500
ME	Statewide Candidates	\$500
MAINE TOTAL		\$500
VT	Party Committees	\$250
VERMONT TOTAL		\$250
2002 TOTAL		\$1,400,879

The largess of the DASHPAC was considerably smaller during the 2000 cycle. While it gave \$1.4 million to state committees during the 2002 mid-term election cycle, it gave just \$330,900 at the state level during the 2000 presidential cycle — \$185,000 to state party committees in four states and \$145,900 to state candidates in 10 states. The table below shows DASHPAC contributions at the state level during the 2000 cycle, arranged by highest-receiving state.

STATE	RECIPIENT TYPE	TOTAL
NV	Legislative Candidates	\$6,000
NV	Party Committees	\$95,000
NEVADA TOTAL		\$101,000
VA	Legislative Candidates	\$20,000
VA	Party Committees	\$70,000
VIRGINIA TOTAL		\$90,000
SD	Legislative Candidates	\$51,900
SOUTH DAKOTA TOTAL		\$51,900
GA	Legislative Candidates	\$18,000
GEORGIA TOTAL		\$18,000
ND	Governor Candidates	\$15,000
NORTH DAKOTA TOTAL		\$15,000
NE	Party Committees	\$15,000
NEBRASKA TOTAL		\$15,000
NH	Governor Candidates	\$15,000
NEW HAMPSHIRE TOTAL		\$15,000

STATE	RECIPIENT TYPE	TOTAL
MN	Legislative Candidates	\$14,500
MINNESOTA TOTAL		\$14,500
DE	Governor Candidates	\$1,200
DE	Party Committees	\$5,000
DELAWARE TOTAL		\$6,200
PA	Legislative Candidates	\$3,500
PENNSYLVANIA TOTAL		\$3,500
MT	Governor Candidates	\$800
MONTANA TOTAL		\$800
2000 TOTAL		\$330,900

CONCLUSION

Combined, the DASHPAC and Volunteer PAC have given just under \$2 million to state-level committees over the last two election cycles. However, these state-level contributions from federal leadership committees are now a thing of the past. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) went into effect in November 2002. The federal law prohibits federal leadership PACs from receiving soft money, the funds that are not used to directly influence the outcome of a federal race. Thus this money won't be available to distribute to state candidates and party committees.

It remains to be seen how — and if — the state-level committees will replace those millions of soft dollars.