



Financing Campaigns: Worksheet

While You Watch: Answer the questions below.

1. What does “campaign finance” mean?
2. How are campaigns usually funded?
3. Who can donate to campaigns?

Research: Go to www.explorecampaignfinance.com and complete the questions below to learn more about how congressional representatives have funded their campaigns.

1. Choose a member of the House of Representatives to search for (you may have to pick a previous or long-serving representative for whom data is publicly available). In the last election cycle, how much money did they raise?
2. Click on the “PAC” filter in the upper lefthand corner of your screen. How much money did PACs donate to the candidate? Which sector contributed the most?
3. Now click on the “Individual” filter. How much money did individuals donate to the candidate? How much money did “small money donors” contribute?



4. Now choose a member of the Senate to search for (you may have to pick a previous or long-serving senator for whom data is publicly available). In the last election cycle, how much money did they raise?

5. Click on the "PAC" filter in the upper lefthand corner of your screen. How much money did PACs donate to the candidate? Which sector contributed the most?

6. Now click on the "Individual" filter. How much money did individuals donate to the candidate? How much money did "small money donors" contribute?

Short Answer Reflection - Consider the questions below and respond in three to five sentences.

What trends did you notice in your research? Which candidate earned more money overall? Did small money donors make up a smaller or larger proportion of all donations? Was there anything that surprised you about how candidates funded their campaigns?