

From my mailer, “Not Afraid of Any Attacker”

When I started out, only 21 women had ever served in the Virginia legislature and it was hard for me to raise more than token contributions. I depended on citizens. When I got elected, I realized how lucky I was! **I can call my own shots because I don't depend on any big donors.**

I would vote to limit contributions in a heartbeat.⁽¹⁾ But until everyone plays by the same rules, for me, the more donors, the more freedom. I simply don't worry that groups I may vote against will stop supporting me – like payday lenders who never contributed another dime after their initial \$250 back in 2007. On the other hand, Altria keeps giving \$500 to almost every Delegate – even me, despite all my bills to let Fairfax raise cigarette taxes and my votes for smoke-free public spaces and to outlaw vaping sales to kids under 18.

Another big reason I don't worry is I'm cheap. I don't spend a lot on elections. **Mailers like this, that I do myself, cost a lot less than paying a consultant who doesn't know the issues or the 39th District.**

The attack mailers focus on the influence of business contributions. At least, **the name of the business is public – my votes are public – I can be held accountable.**

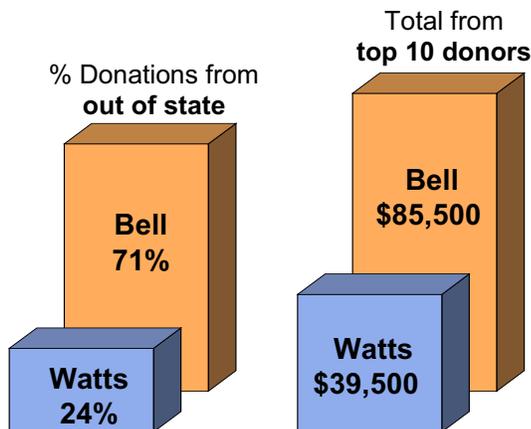
On the other hand, the interests of **individual large contributors and undefined committees very often are not clear ... especially if the money is from out-of-state.**

Nick Bell received \$71,000 from his top 6 donors. All of them were from out-of-state. Here are some links to information about them on the web:

\$20,000	Fieler, Sean M	Princeton, NJ	
\$16,000	Uihlein, Richard	Pleasant Prairie, WI	
\$11,000	Tatnall, Hillman	Aspen, CO	
\$10,000	Mellon, Timothy	Saratoga, WY	
\$10,000	Slingsby, Robert	Blauvelt, NY	donor to father's 2014 race against Sen Cory Booker
\$5,000	Alvord, Richard	Seattle, WA	

Web sites repeatedly refer to their interests as anti-choice, pro guns, anti-LGBT, anti-immigrant, and anti-government. One wants to return to the gold standard.

This chart shines a bright light on the dark picture portrayed in the attack mailers.



Most recent VPAP 10/24 update

**Big money IS a concern ...
But the focus of the concern
should be
the outside money
pushing my opponent's agenda.**

For a quick summary of other issues that need to be addressed to reduce the influence of money in politics, the next page is an excerpt from a candidate questionnaire I recently answered.

The page below is from one of 49 questionnaires I answered this campaign. Whether or not I have an opponent or whether or not I tend to agree with a group, I always answer all questionnaires. It's not just that voters have a right to know; I've found it's an extremely valuable way to get a heads-up on new issues and how they're framed so that I'm better prepared as a legislator.

That said, I cannot find any questionnaire where I said I opposed campaign contribution limits – much less one as pictured *without any attribution* in one of the attack mailers. That *falsehood* was then repeated in a robocall. Enough! It's wrong. [Go to VoteSmart to see the most recent example of my answering “Yes” I support campaign limits.](#)



Central to Clean Virginia's mission is the promotion of clean government and clean energy in our Commonwealth. We believe government should work for all citizens and that our leadership should strive to ethically represent their constituents.

1. Do you support the millions of Virginians who want clean, ethical government?

Yes

No

Comments:

2. Do you actively support efforts to reduce corruption in Virginia politics?

Yes

No

Comments:

3. How important is ethics reform in the state legislature to you as a representative? What are

some specific ways you think Virginia could improve ethics in government? [Max 250 words] (1) We must reverse *Citizens United* and ensure transparency of ALL who contribute to candidates and to any form of advocacy PAC. (2) I support

contribution limits, but lack of small donors or public finance still leaves the playing field clear for big money to funnel influence. (3) Large conglomerate/leadership PACs lead to hand-chosen candidates being controlled on key votes because such a large chunk of the member's support base is a stake. (4) Ever-tighter House Rules to control member votes has significantly contributed to as much as 10:1 big money giving to majority versus minority party members. (5) Gerrymandering to solidify party control and reduce the number of swing districts increases big money control through safe officeholders who don't have to be concerned about not voting in their constituents' best interests. (6) Gerrymandering that draws district lines that aren't readily identifiable means voters can't hold officeholders accountable because they don't know who represents them. (7) Full transparency must not just be the letter of the law but be structurally established in all reform measures, i.e., when I tried to update my website links to the financial disclosure, gifts, and campaign finance reports I file (and to add my tax returns), I became aware those required filings aren't readily accessible. They should be prominent links on the General Assembly website. (8) Low General Assembly salaries that keep many from serving and restrictions that keep low-income from voting result in a lack of balance in shaping public policy.