

# MULTISTATE

Lobbying | Tracking | Compliance | Consulting

## Weekly Lobbying Articles

May 10, 2018

Concord Monitor

May 9, 2018

### Democratic contender for governor wants big money out of N.H. politics

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/Steve-Marchand-says-he-wants-to-reduce-the-role-of-big-money-in-politics-17384005>

Steve Marchand says he wants to reduce the role of big money in New Hampshire politics.

The Democratic gubernatorial contender on Tuesday announced a plan that would incentivize candidates running for governor, the Executive Council and the state Senate to raise money from small-dollar in-state donors rather than from wealthy out-of-state contributors, lobbyists, corporations and political-action committees.

Federal campaign finance reform is an issue with plenty of history in New Hampshire, but the state system has attracted less attention. Granite Stater and activist Doris “Granny D” Haddock grabbed the national spotlight in 1999-2000 for walking across the continental U.S. to advocate for campaign finance reform. Four years later she unsuccessfully ran for U.S. Senate against incumbent Republican Judd Gregg.

New Hampshire’s campaign finance laws have been characterized over the years as some of the most sparse and sporadically enforced measures in the country.

Marchand wants to change that. He argued that “because of the way our system’s run, you end up spending most of your time calling people out of state, PAC money and corporate money, for relatively large money.”

The proposal by the former Portsmouth mayor would set up a public campaign finance system that would provide matching state funds to gubernatorial candidates who don’t accept PAC or lobbyist contributions and who raise \$250,000 in small donations ranging from \$5 to \$100. Ninety percent of those contributions would have to be raised from within New Hampshire.

“If you agree to raise \$250,000 in low-dollar contributions as a primary candidate for governor, you’re eligible for public funding for a very significant match for that \$250,000 that you raised,” Marchand explained during a conference call with reporters. “In exchange (for accepting the matching funds), you agree to not spend any more than that amount of money. You agree not to take corporate money, PAC money.”

Candidates running for the Executive Council and state Senate would need to raise at least \$20,000 in small-dollar donations, with at least \$10,000 of those contributions coming from within their own district.

Marchand said the matching funds would come from the state's general fund and would cost approximately \$4.2 million to \$6.3 million per year. He argued the price tag would be well worth it to protect against the outside influence of big money in politics.

Marchand claimed that opponents "are afraid it will work."

"Right now you have folks who benefit from the current system" such as lobbyists, organized political-action committees, corporations. Regular people don't benefit from the current system," Marchand said.

He said the model is working in other states.

"There are a growing number of states doing this and we find that they are generally very successful," Marchand said. "The trick is, it is difficult to raise low-dollar contributions from over 200,000 New Hampshire residents. It is a lot of work."

To highlight his plan, Marchand said he'll work to get donations of less than \$100 from 2,250 Granite Staters.

This is Marchand's second bid for governor. He jumped in late to the 2016 contest, but ended up coming in a surprise – but distant – second to Democratic nominee Colin Van Ostern. This time around, he announced extremely early, forming his campaign in early April of last year. But recent polling from the University of New Hampshire and Saint Anselm College indicated he remains largely unknown to most New Hampshire voters.

While he wouldn't put a dollar figure on how much money he's raised since announcing his bid last spring, Marchand noted that more than 90 percent of his contributions have come from in-state donors and said the average contribution is well under \$100.

Asked if he'd abide by the rules of his plan going forward, Marchand said "today we do not have a matching system and so I am not in a position to unilaterally disarm."

Last month, former five-term state Sen. Molly Kelly of Harrisville launched her Democratic gubernatorial campaign.

On her campaign website, Kelly noted she's not accepting any corporate PAC money in this campaign.

"We need to get the dark money out of our elections," she said.

The winner of the September Democratic gubernatorial primary will face off in November against first-term Republican Gov. Chris Sununu.

Critics of the state's campaign finance and election laws point to the cases of two high-profile lawmakers over the past 15 years.

Gene Chandler, who's now serving his second tour of duty as speaker of the state House of Representatives, last decade resigned from the speakership the first time after he was investigated and

pled guilty for using campaign donations for personal gain. And earlier this decade, state Senate President Peter Bragdon stepped down as state Senate president after a chorus of criticism over his taking a position as executive director of the Local Government Center while still steering the Senate.

In 2015, the Republican-dominated state legislature passed and then-Gov. Maggie Hassan, a Democrat, signed into law a bill that put some limits on contributions from so-called “dark money” groups, nonprofits also known as 501(c)(4)s.

The most recent bill to further tighten the state’s campaign finance laws, pushed by Democratic Rep. Renny Cushing of Hampton, was sidetracked earlier this year in the House.

## City & State New York

### Albany’s Top 10 Lobbyists of 2018

<https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/power-list/power-list/albanys-top-10-lobbyists-2018.html>

For most of the year, lobbyists try to stay out the news, working meticulously behind the scenes in government on behalf of their clients. But once a year, there is some press that lobbyists are happy to get: a place on the list of top lobbying firms in Albany as part of the state Joint Commission on Public Ethics’ annual lobbying report. The 10 firms that make the list can proudly count themselves among the most powerful lobbyists in the state.

This year’s list didn’t shake things up too much compared to last year. The top three firms all stayed the same, with Kasirer keeping the top spot it earned last year. Brown & Weinraub notably upped its earnings by more than \$2 million over the previous year, putting the firm in a close second to Kasirer.

Wilson Elser dropped off the list this year and was replaced by Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno. Otherwise, the firms on the list remained the same, with a little shuffling among the top 10.

Total lobbying spending decreased slightly since last year, dropping from \$243 million to \$240.1 million. But that does not take away from the overall increase in lobbying spending over the past decade, which has increased about \$70 million since 2007.

In our latest feature on Albany’s top lobbyists, we check in with all 10 firms to see what they considered to be their biggest accomplishment in 2017, and to highlight some of their key employees, clients and industries.

#### 1. Kasirer

**Previous rank:** #1

**2017 compensation:** \$11,495,411

Although Suri Kasirer began her firm in New York City in 1997, it has since grown into not only the top lobbying firm in New York City, but the top firm in the entire state, beating out larger firms without even having a physical presence in Albany. Kasirer once worked in Albany for then-Gov. Mario Cuomo as his special assistant before making the jump over to lobbying. Kasirer appeared on City & State’s Albany Power 100 list last year at No. 23.

**Key employees:** Executive Vice President Julie Greenberg and Associate Vice President Chelsea Goldinger

**Key industries:** Real estate, health care, technology, telecommunications and nonprofits

**Major clients:** SL Green Realty Corp., Vornado Realty Trust, MGM Resorts International, Delta Air Lines Inc. and Altice

**Biggest accomplishment in 2017:** “Kasirer successfully positioned Cubic Transportation Systems to win the nearly \$1 billion Metropolitan Transportation Authority contract to replace the MetroCard with a next-generation fare payment system that will be installed in subways and buses citywide, and allow the system’s users to pay for rides with the wave of a cellphone or credit/debit card. Kasirer designed and implemented the strategic plan that aligned Cubic with key third-party stakeholders and built a strong coalition in support of Cubic’s proposal that resulted in Cubic beating out four other major competitors.”  
– *Suri Kasirer, president*

## **2. Brown & Weinraub**

**Previous rank:** #2

**2017 compensation:** \$11,186,228

The lobbying firm was founded in 2000 by Patrick Brown and David Weinraub. The pair met while they were working for then-Gov. Mario Cuomo. The firm’s recent growth has been spurred by an increasing number of health care clients, expanding it beyond its roots in finance, energy and human services. The pair ranked 37th on City & State’s 2017 Albany Power 100 list.

**Key employees:** Kelly Santore, Kim Fine, John Tauriello, John Harris and Alexander L. Betke

**Key industries:** Finance, human services, health care, education and technology

**Major clients:** Airbnb, Goldman Sachs, Dell, Mount Sinai Hospital, MetLife Inc.

**Biggest accomplishment in 2017:** “We have assisted our clients through some of the state’s more significant procurements. We have represented our clients’ interests in helping to shape transformative regulatory and policy changes. But, most importantly, we strive to offer innovative solutions to our clients’ challenges based on our collective knowledge and experience.” – *Patrick Brown and David Weinraub, co-founders*

## **3. Bolton-St. Johns**

**Previous rank:** #3

**2017 compensation:** \$8,516,843

Bolton-St. Johns has its roots in New York City, but has since expanded across the state with offices in Albany and Buffalo. Giorgio DeRosa opened the Albany office in 1996. Prior to becoming a lobbyist, he worked for a variety of unions and was at one point district director for Rep. Louise Slaughter. Although DeRosa himself does not have direct ties to the executive office, as many current Albany lobbyists often have, his daughter, Melissa DeRosa, holds a powerful position under Gov. Andrew Cuomo as secretary

to the governor. She was ranked as the ninth most powerful person in Albany on City & State's 2017 Albany Power 100 list. The elder DeRosa, along with partner Emily Giske, held the 54th spot.

**Key employees:** Partners Ed Draves, Bill McCarthy, Emily Giske, Tom Connelly and Jack O'Donnell

**Key industries:** Education, energy, health care, gambling, transportation and medical marijuana Major clients: Verizon Communications Inc., Express Scripts Holding Co., Google and Live Nation

**Biggest accomplishment in 2017:** "Some of our biggest accomplishments in 2017 include expanding broadband access in upstate New York, increasing patient access to medical marijuana by expanding the number of qualifying conditions, improving New York state contracting standards by ensuring that contractors who are debarred on the federal level are unable to bid on state public work contracts and securing a grant for the New York State Pipe Trades Association in last year's budget that is going toward training members in solar thermal technologies. ... Most of what we accomplish is not very sexy. We stop really bad things from happening. And we're very good at it." – *Giorgio DeRosa, partner*

#### 4. Greenberg Traurig

**Previous rank:** #5

**2017 compensation:** \$7,888,423

Unlike most other firms on this list, Greenberg Traurig has a global presence and is, first and foremost, a law firm. Heading up its lobbying efforts in Albany is Sam NeJame, who leads its New York state Government Law & Policy Practice. He sees that with the growing ethics and legal concerns surrounding lobbying, the fact that Greenberg Traurig exists as a law firm is a great advantage, especially in its ability to provide attorney-client privilege. NeJame added the firm's size gives its lawyers a global perspective on client issues. Harold Iselin, Greenberg Traurig's managing shareholder in its Albany office, was No. 59 on City & State's 2017 Albany Power 100 list.

**Key employees:** Harold Iselin, Chris Cernik, Bob Harding, Katie Neer and Pam Madeiros

**Key industries:** Health care, insurance, real estate, technology and education Major clients: Real Estate Board of New York, New York Health Plan Association, Life Insurance Council of New York, AT&T Inc. and Microsoft Corp.

**Biggest accomplishment in 2017:** "The former affordable housing credit that was in the city of New York, it was called 421-a. So it had expired a couple years back, and one of the clients that I work for is REBNY, which is the Real Estate Board of New York. And their major initiative for 2017 was the reconstituting of an incentive in the city of New York to help (with) the development of affordable housing. The governor renamed the program to the Affordable (New York housing program), but it's really just a new version of the 421-a law. So I was tasked on behalf of the real estate industry of New York City to negotiate with the governor, with the Assembly, with the Senate to bring an incentive back online. So in 2017, by the end of the session, we were able to do just that." – *Sam NeJame, shareholder and chairman of the New York state Government Law & Policy Practice*

#### 5. Park Strategies

**Previous rank:** #4

**2017 compensation:** \$6,160,632

Park Strategies was founded in 1999 by former Republican U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, after he was unseated by Charles Schumer. D'Amato works at the firm with both his son and brother. He continues to be a power player in not just Albany politics, but national politics as well. He recently endorsed Republican U.S. Senate candidate Chele Chiavacci Farley over his longtime friend U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand. D'Amato ranked No. 75 in City & State's 2017 Albany Power 100 list.

**Key employees:** Alfonse D'Amato, Armand D'Amato, Christopher D'Amato and Kraig Siracuse

**Key industries:** Banking, insurance, telecommunications, construction and real estate development

**Major clients:** Microsoft Corp., Marijuana Policy Project, Nassau Health Care Corp., The Walt Disney Co. and Northwell Health

One way the lobbying business is changing: "The biggest one is obviously the legal one with respect to registration and public relations, where it's now registered activity to talk with editors. There's also a continued trend of need for expertise and professionalism and higher standards, especially with any conflicts and ethics. The bar is continually raised, and that's a good thing. There is value to firms like Park Strategies that have a lot of depth and a lot of intelligent people who have experience, and that is a trend that values knowledge." – *David Catalfamo, managing director*

*Editor's note: Park Strategies declined to respond to questions. Its comment is from 2016's feature.*

## **6. Hinman Straub**

**Previous rank:** #7

**2017 compensation:** \$5,996,564

Hinman Straub is the oldest firm on the top 10 list, founded in 1932 during the Great Depression, decades before any of the other firms, by Harold Hinman and Vanderbilt Straub. It has grown slowly over the years, expanding well beyond its roots representing local banks and defending insurance companies.

**Key employees:** James Carr, Bartley J. Costello III, Terri Crowley, Caron Crummey and Heather Evans

**Key industries:** Health care, human services, insurance, education, telecommunications and energy

**Major clients:** Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, Verizon Communications Inc., LeadingAge, Con Edison, Centers Health Care and Toyota Motor Corp.

**Biggest accomplishment in 2017:** "We had a number of successes in 2017, as well as some setbacks. Our goal is to develop creative solutions for clients and then to relentlessly pursue success." – *Sean Doolan, shareholder and chairman of the firm's Government Relations Department*

## **7. Capalino+Company**

**Previous rank:** #6

**2017 compensation:** \$5,933,390

Capalino+Company may be best known for its work in New York City and founder James Capalino's close ties to Mayor Bill de Blasio, but the firm also has a significant presence in Albany. Albeit, not a physical presence. Much like fellow New York City powerhouse Kasirer, Capalino+Company has no real Albany office, but has nonetheless asserted great influence on Albany politics and state agencies. Capalino was a newcomer to City & State's 2017 Albany Power 100 list, ranked as the 58th most powerful person in Albany.

**Key employees:** Travis Terry, Richard Barth and Rich Kassel

**Key industries:** Real estate, technology, environment, transportation, health care and nonprofits

**Major clients:** Uber Technologies Inc., Macy's Inc., Whole Foods Market Inc.

**Biggest accomplishment in 2017:** "2017 was a great year for us, we had a record number of client successes – securing approval for a new brownfields tax credit for our client Curbcut Urban Partners is one example. But what we're most proud of is the growth of our firm. We've added incredible talent and launched new services that complement our lobbying work. We now work with our clients to secure financial incentives, develop (corporate social responsibility) and environmental sustainability strategies, create new business opportunities and effectively grow their organizations. We also launched the nation's first app to help MWBE companies secure city and state RFPs, which has been a tremendous success." – *James Capalino, CEO*

## **8. Ostroff Associates**

**Previous rank:** #9

**2017 compensation:** \$5,289,191

Rick Ostroff founded the firm in 1995. Before then, he had a long history in state politics and served under then-Gov. Mario Cuomo in more than one post. Notably, he was the governor's assistant for legislative affairs, directly advising him on legislative issues and serving as his liaison to the state Legislature. Ostroff Associates prides itself on the long-term relationships it fosters with its clients. Its very first client when the firm first opened, the New York State Monument Builders Association, is still a client today.

**Key employees:** Scott Wexler, Diana Ehrlich, Chris Bombardier and Dave Wehner

**Key industries:** Economic development, technology, finance, transportation and energy Major clients: New York State Monument Builders Association, Hewlett-Packard Co., FedEx Corp., Walmart Inc. and Churchill Downs

**Biggest accomplishment in 2017:** "Our clients have been fortunate to have some great successes in 2017 and we are proud to play a role in their success. But we generally don't discuss them. Their successes aren't attributable to us, but rather the dedicated elected officials who make things happen and our clients who provide us the tools and ability to navigate the complexities of government on their behalf." – *Rick Ostroff, president and CEO*

## 9. Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno

**Previous rank:** New to list

**2017 compensation:** \$5,001,878

Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno is the affiliated consulting firm for the law firm Pitta LLP. The firm has had great influence in New York City, with a hand in helping former Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito get elected. Robert Bishop heads up the Albany office, helping to represent the interests of organized labor in the state Capitol and before state agencies. The lobbying firm maintains close ties with the law firm to best represent its clients from both legal and legislative standpoints.

**Key employees:** Theresa Cosgrove, Cesar Cardenas, Nadya Stevens, Matt Mataraso and Jason Hecker

**Key industries:** Labor unions and nonprofits

**Major clients:** Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association Local 831, The Black Car Fund, Communications Workers of America Local 1182 and District Council 37 Local 420

**Biggest accomplishment in 2017:** "Lobbying for an enhanced benefit for the survivors of NYC sanitation women and men who died in the line of duty, which when signed into law, became effective retroactively 20 years. The legislation also removed the prohibition of remarriage by a surviving spouse beneficiary." – *Robert Bishop, partner*

## 10. Manatt, Phelps & Phillips

**Previous rank:** #8

**2017 compensation:** \$4,558,580

Manatt's Albany office, as well as the national firm at large, originally focused mostly on health care. Though it still continues to represent key players in the New York health care industry, it has more recently diversified its representation. Although no member of the Manatt Albany team made it onto last year's City & State Albany Power 100 list, senior adviser Bruce Gyory is a frequent political commentator in City & State as well as numerous other publications. At the head of Manatt's Albany office is James Lytle, who, like many other lobbyists on this list, used to work in state government under then-Gov. Mario Cuomo as his assistant counsel for health and human services.

**Key employees:** James Walsh, Julia Donnaruma, Megan Sherman and Bruce Gyory

**Key industries:** Health care, education, transportation, human services and insurance

**Major clients:** New York University, University of Rochester, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

**Biggest accomplishment in 2017:** "Overall, it may have been helping our health care and human services clients navigate the uncertainty created by Congress and the new federal administration over the future of Medicaid and the ACA. More specifically, our advocacy helped ensure coverage of 3D mammography, streamlined requirements for the Nurse-Family Partnership program, obtained capital support for settlement houses, secured an increase in accidental disability retirement benefits for city police

officers, established a diversity in medicine scholarship program and obtained the appropriation of \$2.5 billion over five years for vital housing programs.” – *James Lytle, partner*

**Philadelphia Business Journal**

**May 7, 2018**

**Former U.S. Senator joins Cozen O’Connor’s lobbying arm**

<https://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/news/2018/05/07/cozen-oconnor-lobbying-evan-bayh-indiana-senator.html>

Former U.S. Senator and Governor of Indiana Evan Bayh has joined Cozen O’Connor as of counsel and its government relations subsidiary as a senior advisor.

Bayh is a lawyer, having obtained his law degree from University of Virginia School of Law in 1981. Since stepping down from the Senate, he had been a partner at Richmond, Va.-based mega firm McGuireWoods.

But Bayh will not be working at Cozen O’Connor or its subsidiary, Cozen O’Connor Public Strategies, on a full-time basis, as he serves as senior advisor to New York private equity firm Apollo Global Management, and serves on the board of directors for Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Fifth Third Bank, Berry Global, RCCH Healthcare, Zenith American Solutions and RLJ Lodging Trust.

“Sophisticated clients trust Cozen O’Connor and Cozen O’Connor Public Strategies to promote and protect their interests, and I look forward to working with my counterparts — both here in Washington and around the country — to expand our growing client base and deliver exceptional service,” Bayh said in a statement.

Former U.S. Senator and Governor of Indiana Evan Bayh has joined Cozen O’Connor as of counsel and its government relations subsidiary as a senior advisor.

“Senator Bayh has spent decades at the intersection of business and government — and as an accomplished statesman, he knows firsthand how to strategically advise clients, ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to ambitious startups, on how to navigate today’s complex legislative and regulatory landscape,” Cozen O’Connor Public Strategies Chairman Mark Alderman said in a statement. “Having served on several key committees — including Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; the Select Committee on Intelligence; Armed Services; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; Energy and Natural Resources; and the Special Committee on Aging — Senator Bayh has worked on a range of issues of importance.”

Bayh, 62, the son of U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh, followed his father into politics, serving as Indiana’s secretary of state (1986-89), governor (1989-1997) and U.S. Senator (1999-2011). Known as a moderate Democrat, he retired from the senate seven years ago and made an unsuccessful attempt to return to the office in 2016, losing in the general election to Republican U.S. Rep. Todd Young.

Fast-growing Cozen O’Connor, now at about 700 lawyers, formed its lobbying arm in late 2009 to provide corporate clients with government relations assistance in public policy advocacy, regulatory compliance, and contract procurement at the federal, state and local levels.

Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies said its client base spans across several industries, including healthcare, transportation, hospitality, education, construction, energy, real estate, entertainment, financial services and insurance.

While some of the faces have changed, Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies has assembled a bipartisan team of lobbyists and advisors with offices in Washington, D.C., Richmond, Albany and New York, Philadelphia and Harrisburg, and Santa Monica.

Alderman, the former Wolf Block chairman who spearheaded President Barack Obama's fundraising efforts in Pennsylvania in 2008 and 2012, splits his time between D.C. and Philadelphia.

Managing Partner Howard Schweitzer served as chief operating officer of the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) that helped struggling banks after the financial crisis. Prior to that, he was appointed by President George W. Bush as senior vice president, general counsel, corporate secretary, and chief ethics officer at the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Earlier this year, James D. Schultz, a senior associate White House counsel for President Trump, returned to Cozen O'Connor as chairman of its government and regulatory practice. He also works with the government relations arm.

In 2015, the firm added Blake Rutherford, the former chief of staff to Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane and Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, as a member of the firm's government and regulatory practice as well as Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies. He works closely with the practice the law firm formed that same year to focus on legal and policy matters, and investigations brought by state attorneys general across the country.

Stuart A. Shorenstein, who served as a member of the Clinton/Gore transition team focusing on the Federal Communications Commission, chairs New York government relations efforts and is joined by former New York City Councilman Kenneth K. Fisher and former general counsel of the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications David E. Bronston. It also added three Manhattan-based lobbyists from Manatt Phelps & Phillips in November.

**The Seattle Times**  
**May 7, 2018**

**State lawmakers reject Oklahoma Ethics Commission rules**

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/state-lawmakers-reject-oklahoma-ethics-commission-rules/>

State lawmakers have rejected rules by the Oklahoma Ethics Commission that include barring elected state officials from becoming lobbyists during their first two years out of office.

The commission also suggested putting the restriction on departing state agency heads and requiring a lawmaker who leaves office early to pay for the resulting special election with campaign funds, The Oklahoman reported.

But both the House and Senate rejected those ethics rules Wednesday on grounds that the commission overstepped its bounds.

“It’s not that I’m against those people today,” Democratic Rep. Johnny Tadlock said Wednesday. “I’m truly not. But when they try to tell me what I can do when I leave this House, it’s none of their business, Mr. Speaker! It’s none of their business!”

Gov. Mary Fallin also agreed with the lawmakers. The rules could’ve gone into effect with her approval.

“The commission does not have the authority to write rules that prohibit employment opportunities of Oklahoma’s private citizens, which include state employees and lawmakers when they no longer are employed by the state,” Fallin said.

Ashley Kemp, the commission’s executive director, called the rejection of the cooling-off period disappointing.

“This idea is neither new nor particularly groundbreaking as two-thirds of states have similar restrictions,” Kemp said.

The commission had cited an existing ban found in Oklahoma’s Constitution as its reason for establishing the cooling-off period.

The constitutional ban prohibits lawmakers from taking state jobs paid from state appropriations until after they have been out of office for two years. The ban is more than a century old and has also been upheld by the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

“State officials are public servants trusted with carrying out the laws of the state of Oklahoma for the public good,” The commission has said. “Cooling-off periods seek to avoid conflicts between state officers’ public responsibilities and private economic interests.”

The commission could vote to impose the rules again.

**Providence Journal**  
**May 6, 2018**

**Political Scene: Flow of money from lobbyists to lawmakers**

<http://www.providencejournal.com/news/20180506/political-scene-flow-of-money-from-lobbyists-to-lawmakers>

The names and faces may change from year to year, but in the world of State House fundraising, the money still flows from lobbyists to key lawmakers to some of the poshest restaurants in Rhode Island.

House Speaker **Nicholas Mattiello** holds an early-session fundraiser. Every corporate executive, union leader and lobbyist with a wish list for this year's legislative session drops by with a check. By the time first-quarter reports were filed last week, Democrat Mattiello had banked \$187,214.

Repeat a week or so later with invites to Senate President **Dominick Ruggerio's** fundraiser. He banked \$114,017 in contributions from people and PACs with a stake in decisions made by Rhode Island's part-time lawmakers in the six-month legislative session that traditionally runs from January through June.

Same as it ever was, under a state law that limits political contributions to \$1,000 a year.

Mattiello ended the quarter with \$395,243.13 in his campaign account and \$18,894.38 in a PAC he controls, the Fund for Democratic Leadership, that figures in an ongoing controversy over his record-breaking spending in 2016 to win reelection to his Cranston home-district seat.

The list of those contributing between \$500 and \$1,000 to his campaign mirrors many of the big issues awaiting decisions by the 2018 General Assembly, from gun control to health-care financing to sports betting to the perennial bid by auto-body shop owners for relief from insurance company restrictions on the use of "aftermarket" parts.

From employees and executives at Twin River casinos, the speaker banked \$8,100. State lawmakers are weighing the possible financial terms for running sports betting at Twin River's two casinos, if the U.S. Supreme Court allows it.

That included \$1,000 each from Twin River president and CEO **George Papanier**, senior vice president **Craig Eaton** and executive vice president for corporate development **Glenn Carlin**. Twin River board chairman **John Taylor** contributed \$500, as did a slew of other executives with Rhode Island's sole casino-operating company.

Twin River's lobbyists — including former House speaker **William Murphy**, former House majority leader **George Caruolo** and former House majority whip **Christopher Boyle** — gave Mattiello another \$3,600. (The Twin River PAC parceled out a total of \$4,625 among lawmakers, including \$300 each to Mattiello and Ruggerio.)

The Gun Owners PAC gave the House speaker \$500 and former speaker Murphy — whose State House clients include a second group fighting any new form of gun control, the 2nd Amendment Coalition — gave Mattiello a total of \$1,000.

Collectively, the state's nursing-home owners, who are fighting for higher Medicaid reimbursements, gave Mattiello at least \$10,000 in increments ranging from \$200 to \$1,000. The nursing homes are

counting on legislative budget writers to reverse Gov. **Gina Raimondo's** attempt to save upward of \$5.4 million in next year's budget at their expense.

From most of the top executives at Lifespan, including president and CEO **Timothy Babineau** (\$500), Mattiello received a total of \$5,051. The state's auto body-shop owners gave Mattiello at least \$4,600.

The 13 PACs that gave Mattiello the \$1,000 maximum included the Providence Chamber PAC, the Building Industry PAC, the Construction Industries PAC, the R.I. Health Care Association PAC (representing the nursing homes), the R.I. State Association of Firefighters, Cranston Firefighters for Public Safety, the R.I. Brotherhood of Correctional Officers, the AFSCME Council 94 "People" PAC, and Raimondo's "Gina PAC."

There was no sign of any contribution from the Pawtucket Red Sox owners. However, the team's lobbyist, one-time Senate minority leader **Robert Goldberg**, has given him \$850 so far.

Where did the \$58,342 that Mattiello spent during this period go?

Well, \$700 of it went to the Cranston Western Little League, \$300 to St. Mary's Feast Society, and \$272.55 to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Another \$850 went to the Providence Newspaper Guild for tickets to the Guild Follies.

But most of the money paid restaurant and tavern tabs. He spent \$679.50 at Capriccio on one night, and \$3,503 another. There was \$1,510 at Mill's Tavern and \$620.38 at Cafe Nuovo. The list goes on. His explanation: "The larger bills are for bi-partisan committee dinners when I take entire committees out on an annual basis in appreciation of their hard work throughout the year."

His biggest single expense was \$27,645.01 to the Providence Marriott on Orms Street, for the cost of his first big fundraiser. He also paid \$2,000 to mail-ballot guru **Ed Cotugno's** consulting company, Winning Ways.

Conspicuously missing from Mattiello's report were any payments to **Michael DiChiro**, the lawyer who defended him against state Republican Party complaints to the state Board of Elections. Mattiello's explanation: "I am awaiting a bill."

Senate President Ruggiero, the retired administrator of an arm of the Laborers' International Union, added \$114,017 to his campaign account during the first three months of the session. He had \$224,050 left after spending \$54,065 during the first three months of the session. He had another \$6,978.57 in RI Senate Democrats, the PAC he and Senate Majority Whip **Maryellen Goodwin** control.

He banked \$10,850 from Twin River's executives, employees and lobbyists. From the state's nursing home owners, he received at least \$5,200. And from people affiliated with Reliable Collision Repair, Casale Auto Body, Auto Body Concepts and Providence Auto Body, he received nine \$1,000 checks totaling \$9,000.

All but one of the eight PACs that each gave him \$1,000 were affiliated with labor unions. These were the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 51 PAC, the R.I. State Association of Firefighters, Cranston Firefighters Local 1363 COPE, AFSCME Council 9, IBEW Local 2323, the R.I. Brotherhood of Correctional Officers and the RI Laborers Political League. The eighth was Raimondo's "Gina PAC."

Ruggerio also got money from the gun lobby: \$500 from the Gun Owners PAC and another \$200 recorded as a donation from the NRA Political Victory Fund PAC.

And Ruggerio, too, frequented posh restaurants, including Camille's on the Hill, Capital Grille and Hemenway's. Other favorite hangouts: Rocco's Pub, Ladder 133 and Captain's Catch. His biggest expense was the \$28,000 cost of his fundraiser at the Public Kitchen and Bar. Ruggerio's filing reflects \$3,700 in first-quarter contributions to fellow lawmakers in the House and Senate, including: Senators **Stephen Archambault, Frank Ciccone, Elizabeth Crowley, Walter Felag, Hanna Gallo, Frank Lombardo**, Senate Majority Leader **Michael McCaffrey**, and **Donna Nesselbush**; and to Representatives **Chris Blazewski, William O'Brien**, House Majority Leader **K. Joseph Shekarchi** and Speaker Mattiello.

He gave another \$500 to **Sandra Cano**, the pro-PawSox candidate who recently won an open Senate seat in Pawtucket in a special election.

He explains: "Although many of my colleagues very graciously provide a complimentary ticket to their events, I donate to many of my colleagues and attend their events when my schedule permits."

### **Other fundraising**

Here are the Q1 fundraising tallies for other key lawmakers:

— Building on the \$653,167 he already had in his account, House Majority Leader Shekarchi, the most prolific fundraiser in the General Assembly, had \$730,995 left after netting \$106,350 and spending \$28,521 during the quarter.

— Senate Majority Leader McCaffrey, who is facing a Democratic primary challenge from progressive **Jennifer Rourke** in his Warwick district, had \$222,939 left after raising \$71,866 and spending \$22,693.

— House Minority Leader **Patricia Morgan**, who is running for governor, raised a total of \$101,051 on top of her earlier self-loans and contributions. She spent \$33,396 and had \$185,054 left for her GOP primary fight.

— Senate Minority Leader **Dennis Algieri** raised nothing during the quarter. He spent \$1,733 and had \$3,220.56 left.

— House Finance Committee Chairman **Marvin Abney** raised only \$750 during the first three months. But in keeping with tradition, Abney — with \$54,505 already in his campaign account

— holds his fundraiser at budget-crunch time, May 17.

### **Trips for Ruggerio**

File this away under perks of office: The Senate Presidents' Forum paid \$4,441 to send Senate President Ruggerio to the Four Seasons Hotel in Prague in September 2017 for a conference, according to his ethics disclosure filing last week. Among the topics: "Turmoil in The Middle East."

The corporate sponsors of the New Jersey-based organization that paid for the trip include numerous companies and trade associations that had lobbyists at the Rhode Island State House last year, including gambling giant IGT.

Ruggerio also attended conferences in Naples, Florida, at the expense of the State Government Affairs Council (\$1,190); and at Mohegan Sun, at the expense (\$640.50) of the Council of State Governments.

The State Legislative Leaders Foundation was the sole sponsor of Speaker Mattiello's 2017 trips to conferences in Washington, D.C. (\$1,854) and Columbus, Ohio (\$1,921).

**Star Tribune**  
**May 5, 2018**

### **Tsunami of lobbying greets bipartisan effort at Minnesota Capitol to tax opioids**

<http://www.startribune.com/tsunami-of-lobbying-greets-bipartisan-effort-at-minnesota-capitol-to-tax-opioids/481834501/>

Facing a high-profile proposal at the State Capitol to add a "penny-a-pill" tax on opioids before a Senate panel earlier this year, the pharmaceutical industry took an unusual approach: silence.

Sen. Jim Abeler, R-Anoka, scanned the hearing room: "Some of the lobbyists are in the room, and I'm astounded they're not testifying. Is there someone in the room who could testify on behalf of pharma their position on this bill?" he asked. "I see one person crouching down."

The silence was no accident. In the face of a damaged public reputation and a politically volatile issue, the pharmaceutical industry has turned to the inside game this legislative session, deploying an army of more than three dozen lobbyists to try to kill the effort to tax them. The measure's lead backers, a pair of greater Minnesota Republicans with support from DFL Gov. Mark Dayton, wanted the money raised to go to prevention, emergency response, law enforcement, treatment and recovery in the face of an epidemic that killed nearly 400 Minnesotans in and 53,000 people nationwide in 2016.

"It's all been one-on-one with key lawmakers behind the scenes, and they will not discuss the issue publicly," said Mary Krinkie, vice president of government affairs for the Minnesota Hospital Association. The hospitals support the tax in the face a 146 percent increase between 2010 and 2016 in substance abuse patients coming into Minnesota emergency rooms. "They know they have more political muscle but not great public rationale," Krinkie said.

Nick McGee, a spokesman for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said the organization has engaged with lawmakers and the public on an entire range of issues related to the opioid epidemic, and not just the proposed tax: "Our efforts in Minnesota have been looking at this issue holistically," he said, including grants to local organizations like the Minnesota Farm Bureau and the Lakeville Public Safety Foundation, a partnership with the Addiction Policy Forum to create an online portal of resources for families and an ad campaign about how to get help.

Thus far, industry is winning: With just two weeks to go in the legislative session, "penny-a-pill" appears to be dead. The sponsors, Sen. Julie Rosen, R-Vernon Center, and Rep. Dave Baker, R-Willmar, have been unable to win over fellow members of the Legislature's GOP majority. Baker and another key backer, Sen. Chris Eaton, DFL-Brooklyn Center, both lost children to opioid overdose.

Lawmakers may still set aside some new money to combat the epidemic, which has hit rural Minnesota hard.

Rosen recently revised her proposal to charge pharmaceutical companies a licensing fee instead of a per-pill tax; Baker said he's still working on an alternative. Both expressed confidence the industry would be forced to pay something, but they face a difficult battle.

Speaker Kurt Daudt, R-Crown, said House Republicans are committed to new policies and money for treatment and enforcement, but against specifically taxing the pharmaceutical industry.

"Our caucus has had concerns, and rightfully so, about not wanting to raise the cost of health care," Daudt said. "It raises the cost of a prescription, and a lot of people need this drug — and for many of them it's at the end of their life and this is providing important comfort."

In addition to policy arguments that resonate with Republicans, the companies and relevant trade groups are represented by influential lobbyists with years of relationships, as well as the understanding — never publicly uttered, but always hovering — that rich companies help pay for increasingly expensive election campaigns.

The myriad ways of concealing campaign donations make it nearly impossible to know how much is actually spent. But the pharmaceutical industry spent \$325,000 directly on 2016 Minnesota campaigns, according to the National Institute on Money in State Politics. Of the top 20 contributors to the Republican State Leadership Committee — which distributes money to Republican-aligned groups in Minnesota and other states to spend on legislative races — three are from the pharmaceutical industry, and they spent more than \$1.2 million. Like many industries, drugmakers and distributors hedge their bets and give to Democrats here and nationally.

During 2016 (the most recently available data) the companies and industry trade groups spent at least \$700,000 lobbying in Minnesota, according to Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board records. Since then, drug firms have added to their presence. Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, did not have a lobbyist in Minnesota in 2016. Christopher DeLaForest, a former GOP legislator and aide to former Gov. Tim Pawlenty, has represented the company since 2017.

Bobby Patrick, director of government relations for Medical Alley Association — an influential health care group — was until last year a senior aide to the House Republican caucus. Judy Cook, a top Republican lobbyist with clients including 3M and the Vikings, is also engaged on the issue on behalf of generic drug companies.

At the federal level, the pharmaceutical industry spent more than any other industry on lobbying between 2013 and 2017 — \$1.2 billion, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks lobbyist spending. "They view this as a small cost of doing business relative to the rewards or protection from harm," said Sheila Krumholz, the center's executive director.

Last week, Rosen's bill regained momentum after she dropped the penny-a-pill tax in favor of a licensing fee on drug manufacturers and distributors; companies would pay a fee based on market share.

As details of Rosen's new proposal became public, Cody Wiberg, the executive director of the state Board of Pharmacy, said he got a phone call from an out-of-state lobbyist named Bryan Lowe, from the Healthcare Distribution Alliance. Lowe posed a question: What would happen if the three largest drug

distributors, which control 90 percent of the market and have combined annual revenue of nearly \$500 billion, stopped selling opioids altogether in Minnesota?

"I don't know if that was a veiled threat or not," Wiberg wrote to Rosen in an e-mail reviewed by the Star Tribune.

Lowie confirmed that he asked the question, but declined to comment.

A statement from the Healthcare Distribution Alliance said the group "has been engaged in ongoing, positive and productive dialogue with many stakeholders in the state, including the Board of Pharmacy. The questions raised in our discussions are intended to better understand the proposed legislation." It added that "we do not speak to individual business decisions. Period. Individual companies will make their own choices about market operations."

Baker said his conversations with drug industry lobbyists have been one-sided. He's demanded they provide revenue to help with the costs of battling the epidemic, if nothing else as a show of good faith. "I've approached them to say, 'If not this, then what? I'll keep pushing you guys up through the fan blades until you figure this out, because I'm not afraid of you,'" Baker said.

Robert Josephson, a spokesman for Purdue Pharma, said the company opposes new money from industry.

"We share policymakers' concerns about the opioid crisis and support a number of policies limiting excessive opioid prescribing," Josephson said. "However, these taxes or fees may have unintended consequences for the legitimate patients who rely on these FDA-approved medicines."

Rosen said if the money comes from the state's general fund and not from the pharmaceutical industry, the Legislature would be making a mistake: "It's an admission that we've given up, and the pharmaceutical companies have walked away in another state where we're taking care of the problem they created. And I don't think that's appropriate."

**Houston Herald**  
**May 5, 2018**

### **Ballot petition supports open records and limits on lobbying, donations**

[https://www.houstonherald.com/news/state/ballot-petition-supports-open-records-and-limits-on-lobbying-donations/article\\_56d81a3a-1ea1-5613-b24b-5eea731532ca.html](https://www.houstonherald.com/news/state/ballot-petition-supports-open-records-and-limits-on-lobbying-donations/article_56d81a3a-1ea1-5613-b24b-5eea731532ca.html)

Volunteers and organizers from Clean Missouri stacked boxes filled with signatures at the Missouri Secretary of State's office Thursday afternoon.

Clean Missouri reported that they'd gathered 346,956 signatures. The Secretary of State's office will now go through the petitions to verify them and determine if the organization's proposed constitutional amendment focusing on government ethics will be put on the ballot in November.

Clean Missouri proposes to:

- Limit lobbyist gifts to lawmakers to \$5 or less.

- Make legislators wait two years after leaving office before lobbying.
- Lower campaign limits to \$2,000 for House candidates and \$2,500 for Senate candidates.
- Make the state legislature follow the same open records laws as other government bodies in Missouri.
- Create the post of “non-partisan state demographer” to redraw district maps for legislative approval.

State Sen. Rob Schaaf, R-St. Joseph, addressed the ballot petition from the Senate floor Thursday.

Schaaf has been a vocal advocate of lobbying reform.

“This body had an opportunity to address the issue and didn’t do it,” Schaaf said. “People in Missouri are fed up with this.”

The Senate passed a bill including a total ban on lobbyist gifts on April 11. That bill, sponsored by Sen. Jason Holsman, D-Kansas City, would also change term limits for legislators.

The Rev. Cassandra Gould, pastor at Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church in Jefferson City and executive director of Missouri Faith Voices, said Thursday that lobbyists, large donors and small groups of political insiders have too much influence in the Capitol.

“When I think of what goes on in Jefferson City, I’m reminded of the prophet Amos,” Gould said. “(Amos) said, ‘For I know your crimes are many, and your sins are innumerable. They oppress the righteous, take bribes, and deprive the poor of justice at the city gates.’” She said the people of Missouri are united to end “systemic corruption” in the Missouri legislature.

Khadijah Wilson, a leader with the Organization for Black Struggle, said she believes the amendment will make it possible for more people to run for office.

“Too often, the only people running for political offices are the rich or the well-connected, or the people who cave to special interests,” Wilson said. “This amendment levels the playing field.”

John Saxton, a St. Louis Republican who ran twice for the Missouri House of Representatives, advocated for the state demographer position that the ballot measure would establish. Under the proposal, the demographer would be chosen by the Senate majority and minority leaders from a list of at least three candidates offered by the state auditor.

“Year after year, insiders draw lines to protect and reelect powerful incumbents, whether or not they represent the public interest,” Saxton said. “Most districts in our state are not competitive.”

Saxton’s opponent in the 2016 election, Rep. Tommie Pierson Jr., D-St. Louis, won with almost 89 percent of the vote.

Pierson’s father, former Rep. Tommie Pierson, defeated Saxton in 2014 with 86 percent of the vote. Callaway County farmer Jeff Jones said he talks to his legislators about agricultural policy.

“But the legislative leadership takes millions of dollars in big-money donations,” said Jones, who is a leader with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center. “They have not been hearing my voice.”