

# LOBBY WATCH

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Housework:

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## Speaker and Two Big PACs Divide GOP-Majority Labors

Pachyderms, Mules and RINOs, Oh My!

Straus Defends Sitting Republicans, ART Attacks Incumbent Democrats & TLR Does It All

House Democratic leader Jim Dunnam helped a new moderate Republican Speaker dethrone hard-line predecessor Tom Craddick early this year.<sup>1</sup> After new Speaker Joe Straus' first session, Dunnam criticized him for bankrolling Republican incumbents and those seeking open seats. Dunnam grouched that this freed up other GOP resources to do what Straus pledged not to do: Attack sitting Democrats.<sup>2</sup>

The existence of partisan politics does not shock *Lobby Watch*. But the political division of labor that Dunnam denounced is of interest. So researchers tracked the top political committees active in Republican legislative races to gauge the extent to which they overlapped or complimented Speaker Straus' political activities.

*Lobby Watch* ran numbers on PACs that the media have portrayed as players in the GOP push for more House seats. This revealed that just Texans for Lawsuit Reform and Associated Republicans of Texas are in Straus' league. This report compares the activity of these two PACs to two Straus PACs. For simplification, we treat the two Straus PACs as one.<sup>3</sup>

Buzz-generating PACs that did not make the cut include former Rep. Phil King's GOPAC-TX, the Texas House Leadership Fund, ex-Speaker Craddick's campaign, and Stars Over Texas (Craddick's old leadership PAC). The biggest rejected spender still could shape this election. But the Craddick campaign will need to dig deeper into its \$1.5 million account to do so. As the top rejected fundraiser, the Texas House Leadership Fund fell short of \$500,000, not enough to play with the big boys.<sup>4</sup>

### Three Big Players In GOP's Push for More House Seats

Political Committee	Amount Raised 1/1/09 To 9/25/10	Amount Contributed To Candidates That Period	Last Reported Campaign Cash On Hand
Texans For Lawsuit Reform	\$5,135,623	\$1,818,612	\$3,328,484
House Speaker Joe Straus*	\$3,284,682	\$386,500	\$2,865,427
Associated Republicans of TX	\$2,661,660	\$1,281,550	\$843,212
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$11,081,965</b>	<b>\$3,486,662</b>	<b>\$7,037,123</b>

\*Treats Texans for Joe Straus and Straus' officeholder account as one.

## Midsize GOP PAC Players

Republican PAC	Amount Raised 1/1/09 To 9/25/10	Amount Spent 1/1/09 To 9/25/10	Last Reported Campaign Cash On Hand
TX House Leadership Fund	\$483,352	\$482,959	\$70,221
GOPAC-TX	\$211,068	\$140,285	\$35,350
Tom Craddick	\$4,850	\$622,420	\$1,549,222
Stars Over TX	\$0	\$54,854	\$33,075
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$823,067</b>	<b>\$1,300,518</b>	<b>\$1,687,868</b>

King said this summer that GOPAC-TX planned to raise \$4 million to recruit, train and fund Republicans to unseat Democratic lawmakers.<sup>5</sup> GOPAC's leadership is dominated by conservatives who tried to prevent Craddick from being toppled by Straus' band of Democrats and moderate Republicans, whom hardliners denounce as RINO's: Republicans in Name Only. GOPAC-TX could be a game changer with the millions it sought. But the \$311,115 it has raised isn't enough for serious RINO hunting.

Moving to the big guns, Speaker Straus pledged to just back sitting Republicans or those running for open seats. This makes him the perfect complement to Associated Republicans of Texas (ART), which specializes in bankrolling GOP challengers to knockout incumbent Democrats.<sup>6</sup>

### PACs Funding Same Candidates

Candidates Funded By:	Amount	Percent of Money
1 of the PACs	\$1,431,013	41%
2 of the PACs	\$2,040,648	58%
All 3 PACs	\$15,000	<1%
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$3,486,662</b>	<b>100%</b>

Seeking the open seat vacated by retiring Democratic Rep. David Farabee of Wichita Falls, Lanham Lyne is the only candidate funded by all three big PACs. Given that Straus and ART act as polar opposites, Texans for Lawsuit Reform (TLR) is the belle of the ball when you analyze cases where just two PACs supported the same candidate.

Big-spending TLR takes a quasi-bipartisan approach to hamstringing the civil justice system. Most of its money benefits Republicans—especially when partisan control hangs in the balance. Of the \$1.8

million that TLR gave to candidates, Republicans accounted for 62 percent of TLR's money and 90 percent of TLR-backed candidates.

### Two PACs Backing One Candidate

Candidates Funded By Two of the Three PACs	Candidate Count
Just Straus & ART	0
Just TLR & ART	16
Just TLR & Straus	15

TLR's two favorite candidates are Democrats. Naomi Gonzalez took out El Paso Rep. Norma Chavez in a primary run-off. Gonzalez raised a third of a million dollars, with TLR supplying 85 percent. Gonzalez also got help from her opponent. Dogged by ethics issues, Rep. Chavez resorted in her campaign's final days to calling Gonzalez a lesbian.<sup>7</sup> Gonzalez and Jose Rodriguez, who is seeking retiring El Paso Senator Eliot Shapleigh's solidly Democratic seat, are the only non-incumbent Democrats funded by TLR.

### TLR Candidates By Party

Party	Candidate Count	Candidate %	TLR Amount	TLR %
D	12	10%	\$684,352	38%
R	111	90%	\$1,133,683	62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$1,818,035</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Excludes candidates receiving less than \$25.<sup>8</sup>

TLR's No. 2 candidate is Padre Island incumbent Tara Rios Ybarra. Challenger J.M. Lozano knocked out dentist Rios Ybarra in the primary. Three months later prosecutors indicted Rios Ybarra on Medicaid-fraud charges.<sup>9</sup> Accounting for 86 percent of TLR's Democratic funding, Gonzalez and Rios Ybarra are in safe districts that won't affect party headcounts.

## All TLR Contributions To Democrats (Jan. 2009 – Sept. 2010)

TLR Amount	Democratic Candidate	Office	Primary/Runoff %
\$330,705	Naomi Gonzalez	H-76	48%/53%
\$259,110	Tara Rios Ybarra*	H-43	43%
\$46,141	<b>Patrick Rose*</b>	H-45	80%
\$12,500	Mark Strama*	H-50	100%
\$8,606	Eddie Lucio III*	H-38	100%
\$7,250	Marisa Marquez*	H-77	100%
\$6,000	Eddie Lucio Jr.*	S-27	NA
\$5,000	Jose Rodriguez	S-29	70%
\$3,500	Aaron Pena*	H-40	100%
\$2,500	Ryan Guillen*	H-31	100%
\$2,000	Eric Johnson*	H-100	75%
\$1,000	Senfr. Thompson*	H-141	100%

\*Incumbent

**In Bold:** *Texas Weekly* identifies as a close race.

Note: Excludes Democrats receiving less than \$25.

## TLR's Favorite Republicans (Jan. 2009 – Sept. 2010)

TLR Amount	Republican Candidate	Office	Primary/Runoff %
\$107,840	<b>Cindy Burkett</b>	H-101	50%
\$100,830	<b>Stefani Carter</b>	H-102	74%
\$71,584	Marva Beck	H-57	100%
\$54,791	David Sibley	S-22	45%/42%
\$46,263	Betty Brown*	H-4	49%
\$40,632	Todd Hunter*	H-32	100%
\$34,500	<b>Larry Gonzales</b>	H-52	38%/71%
\$32,904	<b>Jim Murphy</b>	H-133	100%
\$31,352	<b>Jim Landtroop</b>	H-85	66%
\$29,170	<b>George Lavender</b>	H-1	52%
\$27,406	Debra Lehrmann*	S. Court	18%/52%
\$27,369	<b>Charles Anderson*</b>	H-56	100%
\$26,698	<b>Connie Scott</b>	H-34	100%
\$25,482	Joe Straus*	H-121	100%

\*Incumbent

**In Bold:** *Texas Weekly* identifies as a close race.

## Candidates Who Took At Least One-Third of Their Funding from TLR, ART and/or Straus

3 PACs' Share of All Funds Raised (Jan. '09-Sept. '10)	Candidate (Party)	Office	Status	Primary/Runoff (%)	Three-PAC Total	No. 1 PAC/No. 2 PAC
85%	Naomi Gonzalez (D)	H-76	Chal.	48%/53%	\$330,705	TLR
69%	<b>Marva Beck (R)</b>	H-57	Chal.	100%	\$126,584	TLR/ART
54%	<b>Kenneth Sheets (R)</b>	H-107	Chal.	100%	\$149,900	ART/TLR
53%	<b>George Lavender (R)</b>	H-1	Chal.	52%	\$92,070	ART/TLR
53%	Tara Rios Ybarra (D)	H-43	Incum.	43%	\$259,110	TLR
50%	<b>James White (R)</b>	H-12	Chal.	100%	\$60,000	ART
49%	<b>Charles Anderson (R)</b>	H-56	Incum.	100%	\$124,869	STR/TLR
47%	Rodney Anderson (R)	H-106	Chal.	100%	\$43,877	ART/TLR
46%	<b>Jim Landtroop (R)</b>	H-85	Chal.	66%	\$101,352	ART/TLR
46%	<b>Connie Scott (R)</b>	H-34	Chal.	100%	\$149,598	ART/TLR
42%	<b>Tim Kleinschmidt (R)</b>	H-17	Incum.	100%	\$125,327	STR/TLR
40%	<b>Ken Legler (R)</b>	H-144	Incum.	100%	\$118,027	STR/TLR
38%	<b>Cindy Burkett (R)</b>	H-101	Chal.	50%	\$130,490	TLR/ART
38%	<b>Erwin Cain (R)</b>	H-3	Chal.	60%	\$174,150	ART
36%	<b>Bill Zedler (R)</b>	H-96	Chal.	64%	\$65,554	ART/TLR
33%	<b>Jose Aliseda (R)</b>	H-35	Chal.	100%	\$25,827	ART/TLR

**In Bold:** *Texas Weekly* identifies as a close race.

**Top Recipients of Money from ART, Straus & TLR  
(Jan. 2009 to Sept. 25, 2010)**

3-PAC Total	No. of PACs	Candidate	Party	Office	Status	Primary/Runoff (%)	No. 1 PAC/ No. 2 PAC
\$330,705	1	Naomi R. Gonzalez	D	H-76	Chal.	48%/53%	TLR
\$259,110	1	Tara Rios Ybarra	D	H-43	Incum.	43%	TLR
\$182,500	2	<b>Larry Gonzales</b>	R	H-52	Chal.	38%/71%	ART/TLR
\$174,150	1	<b>Erwin Cain</b>	R	H-3	Chal.	60%	ART
\$149,900	2	<b>Kenneth Sheets</b>	R	H-107	Chal.	100%	ART/TLR
\$149,598	2	<b>Connie Scott</b>	R	H-34	Chal.	100%	ART/TLR
\$130,490	2	<b>Cindy Burkett</b>	R	H-101	Chal.	50%	TLR/ART
\$127,477	2	<b>Donald Margo</b>	R	H-78	Chal.	53%	ART/TLR
\$126,584	2	<b>Marva Beck</b>	R	H-57	Chal.	100%	TLR/ART
\$125,327	2	<b>Tim Kleinschmidt</b>	R	H-17	Incum.	100%	STR/TLR
\$124,869	2	<b>Charles Anderson</b>	R	H-56	Incum.	100%	STR/TLR
\$120,830	2	<b>Stefani Carter</b>	R	H-102	Chal.	74%	TLR/ART
\$118,027	2	Ken Legler	R	H-144	Incum.	100%	STR/TLR
\$102,904	2	<b>Jim Murphy</b>	R	H-133	Chal.	100%	ART/TLR
\$101,352	2	<b>Jim Landtroop</b>	R	H-85	Chal.	66%	ART/TLR
\$92,070	2	<b>George Lavender</b>	R	H-1	Chal.	52%	ART/TLR
\$65,554	2	<b>Bill Zedler</b>	R	H-96	Chal.	64%	ART/TLR
\$60,000	1	<b>James White</b>	R	H-12	Chal.	100%	ART
\$54,791	1	David Sibley	R	S-22	Open	45%/42%	TLR
\$48,763	2	Betty Brown	R	H-4	Incum.	49%	TLR/STR
\$46,141	1	Patrick Rose	D	H-45	Incum.	80%	TLR
\$43,877	2	Rodney Anderson	R	H-106	Chal.	100%	ART/TLR
\$40,632	1	Todd Hunter	R	H-32	Incum.	100%	TLR
\$37,897	2	Chuck Hopson	R	H-11	Incum.	61%	TLR/STR
\$36,650	1	<b>Sarah Davis</b>	R	H-134	Chal.	55%	ART
\$34,327	2	<b>Paul Workman</b>	R	H-47	Chal.	39%/54%	ART/TLR
\$30,977	2	<b>Barbara Nash</b>	R	H-93	Chal.	51%	ART/TLR
\$27,406	1	Debra Lehrmann	R	S. Ct.	Incum.	18%/52%	TLR
\$25,827	2	<b>Jose Aliseda</b>	R	H-35	Chal.	100%	ART/TLR
\$25,482	1	Joe Straus	R	H-121	Incum.	100%	TLR
\$24,500	2	Charlie Geren	R	H-99	Incum.	58%	STR/TLR
\$23,315	1	Jerry Madden	R	H-67	Incum.	100%	TLR
\$20,000	1	Lance Gooden	R	H-4	Chal.	51%	TLR
\$18,804	1	Glenn Hegar	R	S-18	Incum.	100%	TLR
\$15,577	1	Dwayne Bohac	R	H-138	Incum.	100%	TLR
\$15,266	1	Eva Guzman	R	S. Ct.	Incum.	65%	TLR
\$15,000	1	David Dewhurst	R	Lt. Gov.	Incum.	100%	TLR
\$15,000	3	Lanham Lyne	R	H-69	Open	60%	\$5,000/Ea.
\$12,500	1	Mark Strama	D	H-50	Incum.	100v	TLR
\$12,000	1	Raul Torres	R	H-33	Chal.	68%	ART
\$11,683	2	Rob Orr	R	H-58	Incum.	68%	TLR/ST
\$11,139	1	Bob Deuell	R	S-2	Incum.	71%	TLR
\$11,000	1	Delwin Jones	R	H-83	Incum.	39%/42%	TLR

## Contributions of the Three PACs By Candidate Running Status

Donor PAC	Amount To Challengers	%	Amount To Incumbents	%	Amount To Open Seats	%	Amount To Other	%	Total
TLR	\$867,488	48%	\$844,222	46%	\$78,349	4%	\$27,976	<1%	<b>\$1,818,035</b>
ART	\$1,276,550	99%	\$0	0%	\$5,000	<1%	\$0	0%	<b>\$1,281,550</b>
Straus	\$0	0%	\$364,000	94%	\$22,500	6%	\$0	0%	<b>\$386,500</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,144,038</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>\$1,208,222</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>\$105,849</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>\$27,976</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>\$3,486,085</b>

"Other" category includes senators not facing 2010 elections or House members who did not seek reelection.

In contrast to the profiles of its favorite Democrats, TLR's top Republican candidates include many GOP challengers who are giving Democratic incumbents a run for their money. The outcome of these races will help decide if Speaker Straus retains his title next January (TLR gave Straus \$25,482). Many of these same Republican candidates rank among the campaigns that received a third or more of their funding from TLR, ART and/or Straus. That these PACs seek to maximize their partisan impact in the House is not shocking.

Analyzing the three PACs by the running-status of their candidates further demonstrates the complimentary nature of Straus and ART. Ninety-nine percent of ART's contributions went to Republican challengers, who did not get a dime from Straus. Meanwhile, incumbents and challengers pretty evenly split the money from TLR's deeper pockets. Finally, the House's eight open seats accounted for 6 percent of the Speaker's money and 4 percent of TLR's funds.

### Money To Candidates Who Already Had Close Races This Cycle

Donor PAC	Money To Candidates Getting <56% of a Vote So Far In 2010 Cycle	Percent
TLR	\$996,375	55%
ART	\$441,400	34%
Straus	\$20,000	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,457,775</b>	<b>42%</b>

Although the big showdown has yet to come on November 2, candidates who already have faced close races this cycle have attracted and spent disproportionately large piles of money. Most of Straus' money has gone to incumbent Republicans who did not face tough primaries, while Scrappy ART

gave one-third of its cash to candidates who already have polled less than 56 percent of the vote this year. TLR gave more than half of its money to candidates who have already faced stiff competition. This includes TLR's massive expenditures on the two Democrats discussed above, as well as its favorite Republican: Cindy Burkett. To be able to challenge Mesquite Democratic Rep. Robert Miklos in November, Burkett won a three-way primary with just over 50 percent of the vote.

### Big Contributors Who Supported One, Two or All Three PACs

Big Donors Who Gave To...	Amount	Percent
All Three PACs	\$2,499,345	23%
Two of the PACs	\$2,835,403	26%
One of the PACs	\$5,563,931	51%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,898,678</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Does not track small contributors.

Having analyzed which candidates these PACs bankrolled, this report examines the origins of the more than \$11 million that TLR, ART and Straus raised. Tracking all but the smallest donors, researchers found that half of all the money that the three PACs raised came from contributors who gave to just one of the PACs. The rest of the money that the three PACs raised was pretty evenly split between donors who gave to two of the three PACS and those that gave to all three.

### Donors Funding The Same PAC Pairs

Pairing	Count
Just Straus-ART	46
Just TLR-Straus	32
Just TLR-ART	23

## Top Donors to ART, Straus & TLR (Jan. 2009 to Sept. 25, 2010)

Amount To The 3 PACs	PACs Backed	Contributor	Company	No. 1 PAC/ No. 2 PAC
\$680,000	3	Bob & Doylene Perry	Perry Homes	TLR/ART
\$565,000	3	Robert C. McNair Jr.	Cogen Tech./Texans	TLR/ART
\$515,000	1	A. Anthony Annunziato	AAA Capital Mgmt.	TLR
\$502,909	2	Richard W. Weekley	Weekley Properties	TLR/STR
\$400,000	2	Trevor D. Rees-Jones	Chief Oil & Gas LLC	TLR/ART
\$310,000	3	Peter & Julianna Holt	Holt Companies/Spurs	TLR/ART
\$250,000	2	Andrew Beal	Beal Bank	ART/TLR
\$250,000	1	Repub. State Leadership	GOP PAC	ART
\$250,000	2	Robert & Terry Rowling	TRT Holdings, Inc.	ART/TLR
\$235,000	3	Harold C. Simmons	Contran Corp.	TLR/ART
\$185,000	2	Peter & Edith O'Donnell	O'Donnell Foundation	TLR/STR
\$140,000	3	John & Barbara Nau III	Silver Eagle Distrib. L.P.	ART/TLR
\$135,000	3	Woody & Gayle Hunt	Hunt Corp.	TLR/ART
\$135,000	2	Kenny & Lisa Troutt	Mt. Vernon Investments	ART/TLR
\$125,000	3	Harlan & Katherine Crow	Crow Holdings	TLR/STR
\$125,000	2	James Doug Pitcock Jr.	Williams Bros. Constr.	TLR/STR
\$101,000	2	Richard R. Rogers	Mary Kay, Inc.	ART/STR
\$100,000	1	James C. Flores	Plains Exploration	ART
\$100,000	1	Curtis Mewborne	Mewbourne Oil Co.	ART
\$90,000	1	Trammell S. Crow Jr.	Crow Holdings	TLR
\$76,000	2	Louis & Julie Beecherl	Beecherl Co's	TLR/ART
\$75,000	1	David M. Weekley	David Weekley Homes	TLR
\$70,000	1	AT&T	AT&T	STR
\$66,095	3	Paul L. Foster	Western Refining Co.	TLR/STR
\$55,000	2	J. Ralph & Joy Ellis Jr.	Belmont Oil & Gas Corp.	TLR/ART
\$55,000	2	T. Boone Pickens	BP Capital	TLR/STR
\$50,000	1	Randy Best	Voyager Exp. Learning	TLR
\$50,000	1	Al G. Hill	Hill Holdings	ART
\$50,000	1	Nancy Kinder	Kinder Foundation	TLR
\$50,000	1	Michael G. Manners	ELAN Development	TLR
\$50,000	1	Frank McGuyer	McGuyer Homebuilders	TLR
\$50,000	1	Drayton McLane Jr.	McLane Co., Inc.	TLR
\$50,000	1	George E. Seay III	Seay Stewardship	ART
\$50,000	1	Robert Weekley	Lowe Enterprises	TLR
\$46,000	3	Lawrence Kellner	Continental Airlines	TLR/STR
\$45,000	1	William R. Lummis	Howard Hughes Estate	TLR
\$43,650	2	Assoc. Gen'l Contractors	Assoc. Gen'l Contractors	STR/TLR
\$43,000	3	Patrick Rutherford Jr.	Rutherford Oil Co.	TLR/STR
\$40,714	2	Lee Bass	Bass Bros. Enterprises	ART/STR
\$37,500	3	B.J. 'Red' McCombs	Red McCombs Group	TLR/ART
\$36,000	1	James C. Walter III	Walter Oil & Gas	TLR
\$35,502	1	Wholesale Beer Dist.	Wholesale Beer Distrib.	ART
\$35,000	2	Ardon E. Moore III	Lee M. Bass, Inc.	ART/STR



Analyzing the pairings that occur among donors who funded two of the three PACs reveals an interesting finding. Although they are polar opposites in terms of which GOP candidates they support, ART and Straus account for half of the cases where a single donor supported two of the three PACs studied. The money spent by these two PACs is more specialized than the money that they raise.

Forty-three big donors gave these three PACs a total of \$6.4 million, accounting for 57 percent of all the money that the three PACs raised. Houston homebuilder Bob Perry led, giving \$680,000. Speaker Straus received no money from Perry or from Houston Texans owner Robert McNair, who ranks No. 2 in the total amount given to the three PACs.

Three men ranking among the top 10 donors have received national news coverage due to their bankrolling of a Karl Rove advertising blitz attacking vulnerable Congressional Democrats. Through themselves or their companies, Chief Oil chief Trevor Rees-Jones, investor Robert Rowling and nuclear-dump kingpin Harold Simmons have contributed at least \$1 million apiece to Rove's American Crossroads.

The last two men have been longtime funders of Texas political candidates, whereas Rees-Jones recently burst onto the political stage, seemingly out of nowhere. During the 2008 election cycle, when Simmons and Jones ranked among Texas' top 20 donors, Rees-Jones gave a modest \$23,500 to state candidates and committees. This cycle he appears to be on track to clear \$1 million in state contributions.

### Associated Republicans' Top Corporate Contributors

Corporate Contributor	Amount
Silver Eagle Distributors	\$37,500
Prudential Financial	\$17,500
DX Service Co., Inc.	\$10,000
Biomet Texas, LTD.	\$10,000
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell	\$5,750
Argo Group US, Inc.	\$5,000
Cynthia J. Comparin	\$5,000
Luther King Capital Mgmt.	\$5,000
Southern Multifoods, Inc.	\$5,000
Southwest Business Corp.	\$5,000
Tejon Exploration Co.	\$5,000
Rocky Mountain Mortgage	\$4,750
David Miller Oil & Gas	\$2,500
Texas Assn. of Realtors	\$2,500
USAA	\$2,500
Anheuser-Busch	\$2,000
Brokers Nat'l Life Assurance	\$2,000
Chocktaw Nation	\$2,000
CNA Commercial, Inc.	\$2,000

Finally, a word on corporate sponsors. Although Texas law prohibits corporate contributions to candidates, general purpose PACs may use corporate funds to cover their administrative expenses. TLR's PAC reported \$88,000 in transfers from its corporate parent, while ART provided an itemized list of corporations that gave it a total of more than \$150,000 in corporate funds to aid its targeting of Democratic incumbents.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> "Dunnam: Straus Follows the Craddick Playbook On Going After Democratic Incumbents," *Quorum Report*, August 4, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> "PAC Pack," *Texas Weekly*, July 13, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Texans for Joe Straus (TEC filer No. 00056637) has done most of Straus' fundraising, transferring \$1.5 million of this money to Straus' candidate/officeholder account (00019498), which has done most of the spending. Since this report treats both Straus PACs as one, it excludes this \$1.5 million transfer here to avoid double-counting the same dollars twice. Straus contributed \$65,000 to the Republican Party of Texas.

<sup>4</sup> Straus gave the Texas House Leadership Fund \$15,000.

<sup>5</sup> "GOPAC Texas a 'Go' on Launchpad," *Dallas Morning News*, June 23, 2009. "Republican Lawmakers Launch Texas Affiliate of GOPAC," *Quorum Report*, June 24, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> "PAC Pack," *Texas Weekly*, July 13, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> "Rep. Norma Chavez Fights for Her Political Life," *Texas Tribune*, October 15, 2010. "State Rep. Norma Chavez Rides the Low Road," *Texas Observer*, April 5, 2010.

<sup>8</sup> TLR gave Democrats Sergio Munoz and Carol Alvarado less than \$25 apiece.

<sup>9</sup> "State Rep. Tara Rios Ybarra indicted on federal fraud charges," *Brownsville Herald*, June 23, 2010.