



Texas PACs: 2006 Election Cycle Spending

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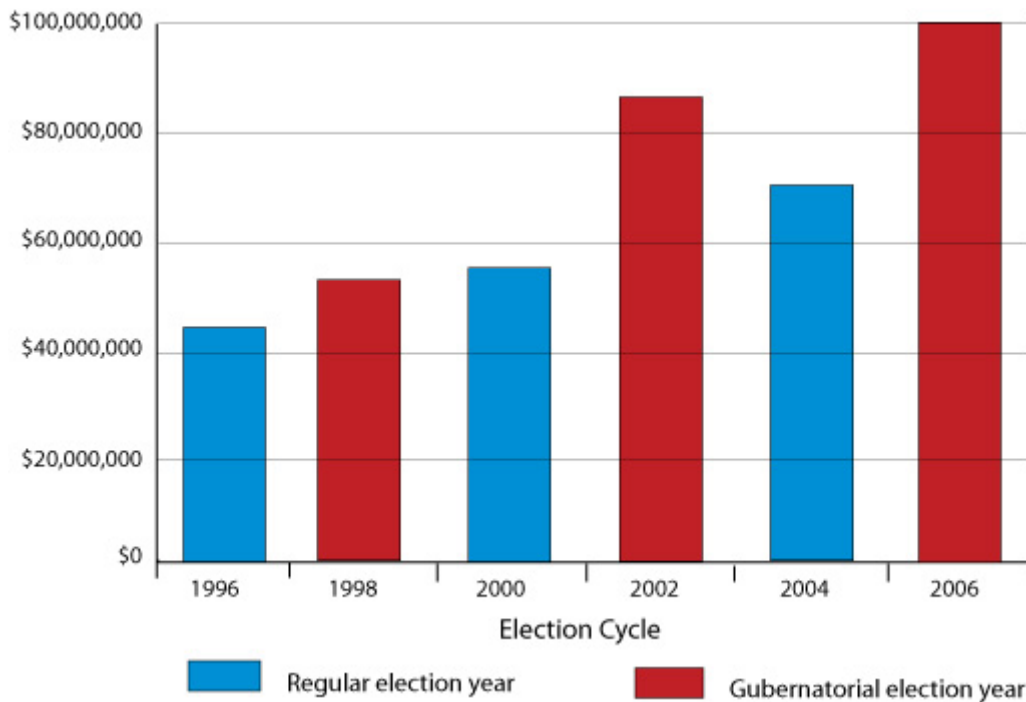
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I. Total Texas PAC Spending

This report identifies and ranks Texas’ top general-purpose political action committees (PACs) in the 2006 election cycle. These rankings are based on the total amount of expenditures that PACs electronically reported to the Texas Ethics Commission. During the two-year election cycle ending in December 2006, 1,132 general-purpose PACs reported expenditures.¹ The number of PACs participating in the 2006 cycle exceeded that of any other election over the past decade. The total 2006 cycle spending by these PACs exceeded \$99 million. This marked a 44 percent increase from the \$69 million that such PACs spent in the previous cycle.

Several factors fed unprecedented PAC spending in 2006. PAC spending peaks in gubernatorial election years, when PACs dig deep to influence the elections of a large number of statewide officeholders. The 2006 gubernatorial race was exceptional—with four well-funded candidates who raised a combined \$42.3 million.² PAC spending in the 2006 cycle handily outstripped the \$85 million spent in the preceding gubernatorial election cycle in 2002.

Texas PAC Spending Spikes In Gubernatorial Election Years



Election Cycle	No. of Active PACs	PAC Spending	Spending Increase From Previous Cycle	Spending Increase (%)
1996	911	\$43,082,546	NA	NA
1998*	893	\$51,543,820	\$8,461,274	20%
2000	865	\$53,996,975	\$2,453,155	5%
2002*	964	\$85,320,226	\$31,323,251	58%
2004	850	\$68,904,524	(\$16,415,702)	(19%)
2006*	1,132	\$99,167,646	\$30,263,122	44%

*Gubernatorial election year.

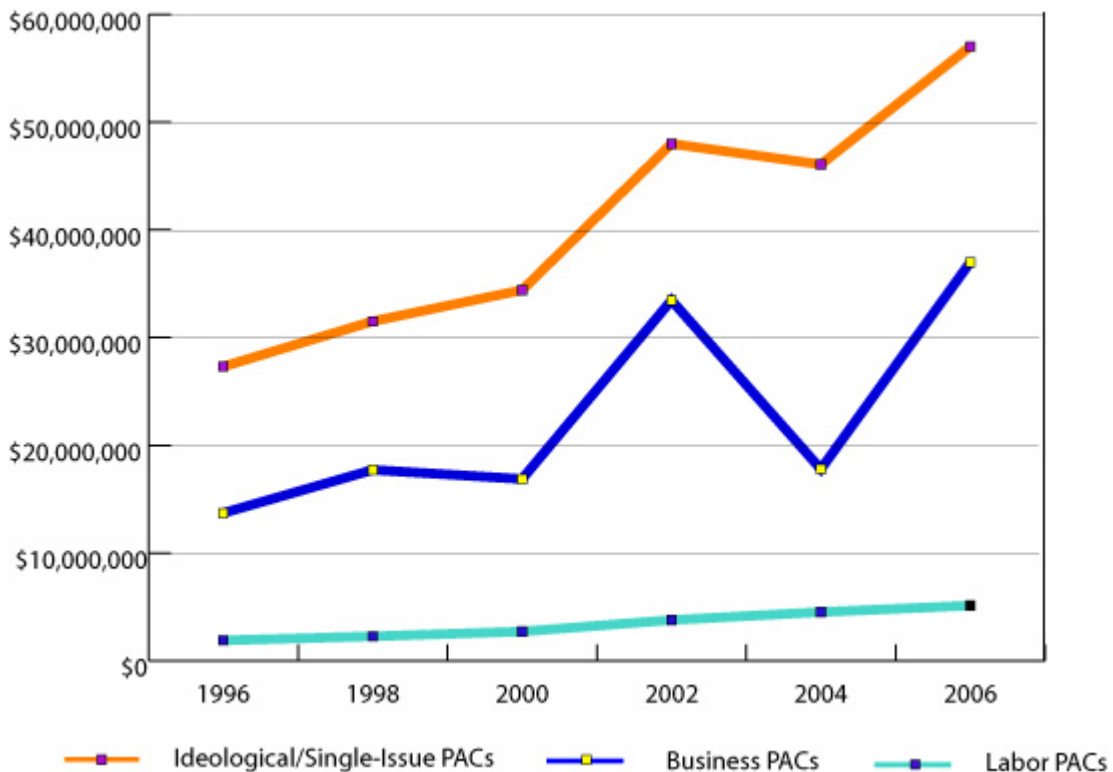
II. Comparing Business, Ideological & Labor PACs

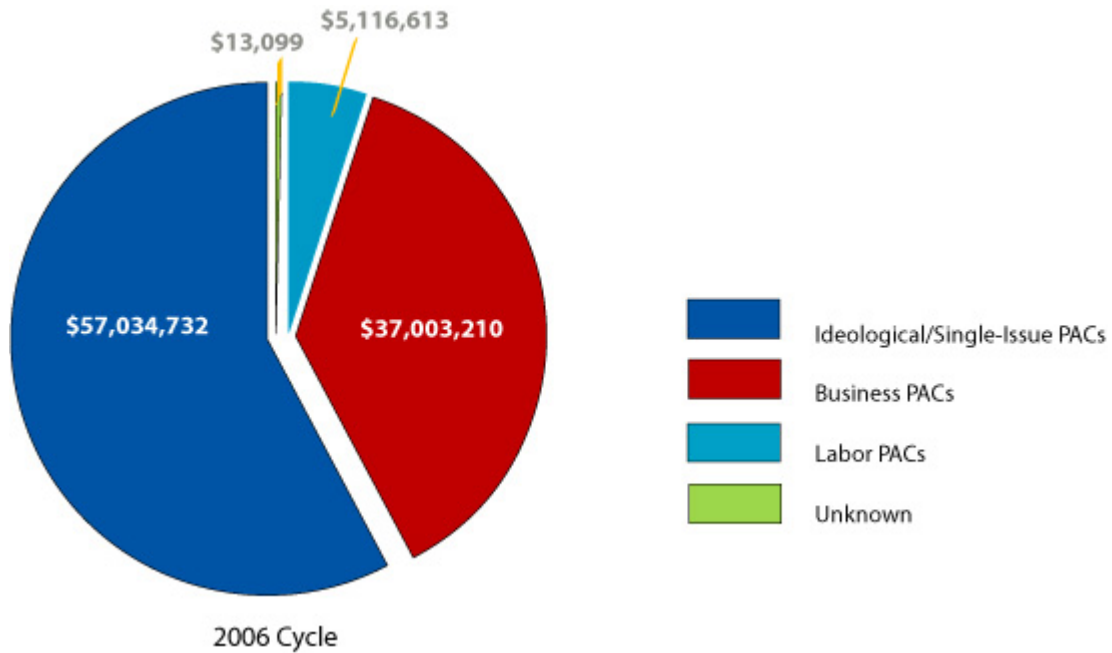
Business PACs spent \$57 million in the 2006 cycle, up 24 percent from the \$46 million that these PACs spent in the previous cycle. Business PACs accounted for 58 percent of all PAC spending this round, down from 67 percent in the 2004 cycle.

Rapid growth by Ideological and Single-Issue PACs allowed these PACs to seize a much larger slice of the PAC pie this round. Spending by Ideological and Single Issue PACs more than doubled from \$18 million in 2004 to \$37 million in 2006. As a result, these PACs accounted for 37 percent of all PAC spending in 2006—eating into the Business PAC category’s share of overall PAC spending. Finally, the \$5 million spent by Labor PACs accounted for just 5 percent of the total, down from 7 percent in 2004.

Spending by these three primary PAC sectors has been subject to dramatic swings over the past decade. From 1995 through 2000 Business PACs averaged 63 percent of the total, Ideological and Single-Issue PACs averaged 33 percent and Labor PACs 5 percent. In the 2002 cycle Ideological PAC spending expanded to 39 percent of the total, fueled by conservative PACs that successfully sought Republican control of the Texas House. In the following 2004 cycle, Ideological PAC spending plummeted to 26 percent of the total, as Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle sought to prosecute Tom DeLay’s Texans for a Republican Majority PAC and the Texas Association of Business for allegedly breaking Texas elections laws in 2002. In 2006, however, Ideological and Single-Issue PACs rebounded to 37 percent of all PAC money.

PAC Spending By Sector





Sector	1996 Cycle	1998 Cycle	2000 Cycle	2002 Cycle	2004 Cycle	2006 Cycle	'04-'06 Growth
Business	\$27,314,623	\$31,516,817	\$34,416,627	\$48,000,676	\$46,088,137	\$57,034,732	+24%
Ideology	\$13,713,797	\$17,719,192	\$16,870,715	\$33,466,788	\$17,789,167	\$37,003,210	+108%
Labor	\$1,886,325	\$2,259,742	\$2,707,704	\$3,776,290	\$4,512,391	\$5,116,613	+13%
Unknown	\$167,801	\$48,068	\$1,929	\$76,473	\$514,829	\$13,099	
TOTALS:	\$43,082,546	\$51,543,820	\$53,996,975	\$85,320,226	\$68,904,524	\$99,167,654	+44%

The resurgence of Ideological PACs can be seen in the accompanying table that lists the largest 2006 PACs that were inactive or nonexistent in the previous election cycle. Twelve of the 14 major new PACs fall into the Ideological and Single-Issue category. Half of these major new Ideological PACs are affiliated with the two major parties. Texas Republicans used their dominance early in the decade to lock in redistricting advantages, which have been eroded by demographic trends benefiting Democrats. As these forces collided in 2006, the two parties fought for legislative control, with Republicans ceding ground—if not control—to Democrats. The rapid growth of minority populations in Houston and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex made these two of Texas' fiercest partisan battlegrounds. Four of the top new PACs were partisan committees in these metropolitan areas. This same trend also is evident in the table listing all the top Ideological and Single-Issue PACs, which appears in the next chapter.

Largest New PACs in 2006

PAC	Interest Category	2006 Spending	2006 Rank
TX Republican Leaislative Cambaian Com.	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$2.726.907	3
TX Democratic Trust	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$2.256.378	6
Harris Co. Republican Partv	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$1.397.049	11
Border Health PAC	Health	\$667.788	25
Future of TX Alliance	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$655.655	26
Dallas Co. Democratic PAC	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$641.775	27
Dallas Co. Republican Partv	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$616.554	28
TX Parent PAC	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$492.800	38
TX Values in Action Coalition	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$467.473	41
TX Opporitunitv PAC	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$395.419	48
Republican Partv of Fort Bend Co.	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$393.306	49
ACC Capital Holdinas	Finance	\$345.750	60
TX Prooress Council	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$340.137	62
Texans for School Choice	Ideoloaical/Sinale Issue	\$211.757	98

Although they are not partisan in name, several other new Ideological PACs played into the 2006 partisan struggle. Dr. James Leininger and other social-conservative financiers used the Future of Texas Alliance, Texas Opportunity PAC and Texans for School Choice to prod the Republican Party further to the right on school vouchers and other social issues. Meanwhile, major new liberal PACs such as the Texas Parent PAC, Texas Values in Action and the Texas Progress Council worked to prod the state in the opposite direction.

Four Republican and two Democratic PACs also made the accompanying list of the 15 fastest-shrinking PACs. Topping this list was Tom DeLay's now-indicted Texans for a Republican Majority PAC that made its last, dying expenditures during the 2006 cycle. GOP PACs in Houston and Austin also cut their expenditures by 50 percent or more. The withering Democratic PACs were the Majority PAC of Texas and the Bexar County Democratic Party.

Another major new PAC is ACC Capital Holdings, parent of predatory mortgage lenders Ameriquest, Town & Country Credit and AMC Mortgage. The attorneys general of Texas and 48 other states reached a \$325 million settlement with Ameriquest in 2006 to settle deceptive lending charges. Governor Rick Perry's Texas Enterprise Fund unsuccessfully competed against Illinois in 2004 to land a new Ameriquest operations center.³ Top recipients of ACC PAC funds were Governor Perry (\$100,000), Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and Speaker Tom Craddick (\$50,000 apiece) and Comptroller Susan Combs (\$20,000).

Fastest-Shrinking PACs

Shrinking PAC	Interest	2006 Spending	2004 Spending	'04-'06 Change
Texans for a Republican Majority	Ideological/Single Issue	\$410	\$133,784	-100%
Majority PAC of TX	Ideological/Single Issue	\$9,236	\$660,309	-99%
Jobe PAC	Construction	\$4,560	\$162,103	-97%
Bexar Co. Democratic Party	Ideological/Single Issue	\$23,516	\$207,195	-89%
Harris Co. Republican PAC	Ideological/Single Issue	\$29,387	\$176,276	-83%
Citizens for Equality	Ideological/Single Issue	\$41,792	\$175,488	-76%
Centex Corp.	Construction	\$31,929	\$110,821	-71%
Burlington Northern Santa Fe	Transportation	\$255,464	\$740,964	-66%
Conservative Republicans Harris Co.	Ideological/Single Issue	\$102,084	\$273,105	-63%
Compass Bancshares, Inc.	Finance	\$137,751	\$362,467	-62%
El Paso Municipal Police Officers	Labor	\$73,266	\$185,438	-61%
Trinity Industries	Construction	\$75,504	\$160,515	-53%
Austin Republican Women's Club	Ideological/Single Issue	\$51,450	\$103,284	-50%
Texas Trial Lawyers Assn.	Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$883,547	\$1,665,283	-47%
*TXU Corp.	Energy/Nat'l Resources	\$94,576	\$158,363	-40%

*TXU Corp. PAC is the smallest of four TXU PACs, which spent a total of \$790,684 in the 2006 cycle.

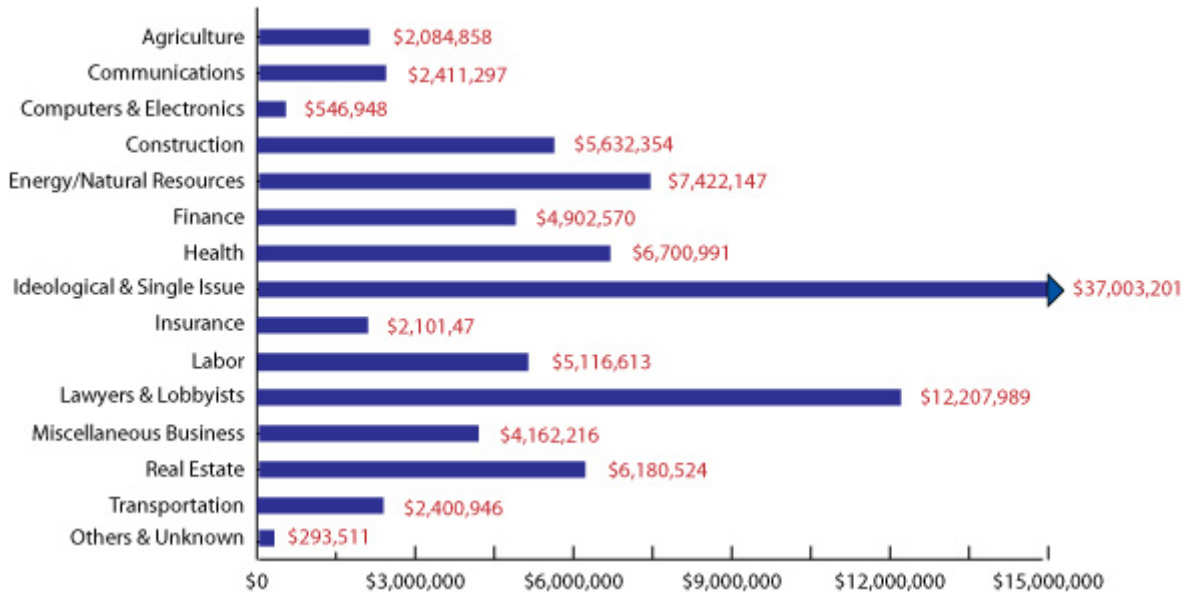
The Ideological and Single-Issue category along with the Energy & Natural Resources category account for more than half of the fastest-growing major PACs listed in the accompanying table. Energy & Natural Resources is one of the major sectors discussed in the next chapter, which analyzes PAC spending by industry.

Fastest-Growing PACs

PAC	Sector	2006 Spending	2004 Spending	'04-'06 Change
Mirant Corp.	Energy/Nat'l Resources	\$135,402	\$3,718	3,541%
TX Equity PAC	Ideological/Single Issue	\$134,308	\$11,853	1,033%
Campaign For Repub. Leadership	Ideological/Single Issue	\$201,585	\$26,296	667%
TX Association of Realtors	Real Estate	\$929,600	\$131,173	609%
BG Distribution Partners	Miscellaneous Business	\$1,024,000	\$162,300	531%
Exxon Mobil Corp.	Energy/Nat'l Resources	\$106,000	\$17,000	524%
Tarrant Co. Democratic Party	Ideological/Single Issue	\$138,082	\$27,507	402%
Libertarian Party of TX	Ideological/Single Issue	\$161,992	\$33,284	387%
Bexar PAC	Health	\$157,446	\$33,838	365%
Lyondell Petrochemical Co.	Energy/Nat'l Resources	\$275,918	\$59,624	363%
People for Efficient Transportation	Other	\$109,744	\$24,785	343%
El Paso Corp.	Energy/Nat'l Resources	\$156,682	\$35,416	342%
Cingular Wireless	Communications	\$112,147	\$25,584	338%
Planned Parenthood of Houston	Ideological/Single Issue	\$127,433	\$29,869	327%
Texas 2020 PAC	Ideological/Single Issue	\$337,891	\$80,553	320%
Atmos Energy Corp.	Energy/Nat'l Resources	\$121,356	\$30,478	298%
Texas Land Title Assn.	Insurance	\$167,169	\$45,599	267%
Half Associates	Construction	\$107,386	\$29,450	265%
ConocoPhillips	Energy/Nat'l Resources	\$220,579	\$61,780	257%
Ryan & Co.	Finance	\$1,015,088	\$288,525	252%
Licensed Beverage Distributors	Miscellaneous Business	\$312,850	\$94,300	232%
Texas Bankers Assn.	Finance	\$227,002	\$72,430	213%
HDR, Inc.	Construction	\$206,075	\$68,176	202%

III. PAC Spending By Interest Category

As discussed above, the Ideological and Single Issue category ballooned to account for 37 percent of all 2006 PAC spending. Although Labor and Business PACs also increased their expenditures significantly, these sectors did not approach the 108 percent increase of Ideological PACs.



Interest Category	No. of Active 2006 PACs	2006 PAC Spending	Share of '06 Spending	'04-'06 Change
Agriculture	30	\$2,084,858	2%	69%
Communications	17	\$2,411,297	2%	19%
Computers & Electronics	6	\$546,948	<1%	17%
Construction	78	\$5,632,354	6%	22%
Energy/Nat'l Resources	57	\$7,422,147	8%	34%
Finance	41	\$4,902,570	5%	55%
Health	54	\$6,700,991	7%	19%
Ideological/Single Issue	522	\$37,003,201	37%	108%
Insurance	26	\$2,101,473	2%	23%
Labor	100	\$5,116,613	5%	13%
Lawyers & Lobbyists	48	\$12,207,989	12%	6%
Miscellaneous Business	61	\$4,162,216	4%	71%
Real Estate	40	\$6,180,524	6%	29%
Transportation	27	\$2,400,946	2%	-10%
Other & Unknown	25	\$293,511	<1%	
TOTALS:	1,132	\$99,167,646	100%	42%

Top Ideological and Single-Issue PACs

PAC	2006 Spending	2006 Rank	2004 Spending	2004 Rank	'04-'06 Change
Texans For Lawsuit Reform	\$4,224,428	1	\$3,105,386	1	36%
TX Republican Leg. Campaign Com.	\$2,726,907	3	-	-	NA
Republican Party of TX	\$2,604,523	4	\$1,927,676	3	35%
TX Democratic Trust	\$2,256,378	6	-	-	NA
TX Democratic Party	\$1,553,206	9	\$1,922,185	4	-19%
Associated Republicans of TX	\$1,472,061	10	\$1,688,087	7	-13%
Harris Co. Republican Party	\$1,397,049	11	-	-	NA
Annie's List	\$1,098,083	13	\$454,177	30	142%
Stars Over TX	\$1,085,121	14	\$956,675	12	13%
House Democratic Campaign Com.	\$1,051,894	15	\$366,512	36	187%
Future of TX Alliance	\$655,655	26	-	-	NA
Dallas Co. Democratic PAC	\$641,775	27	-	-	NA
Dallas Co. Republican Party	\$616,554	28	-	-	NA
TX Federation of Republican Women	\$523,562	36	\$347,460	40	51%
TX Parent PAC	\$492,799	38	-	-	NA
Friends of Phil Gramm	\$473,039	39	\$514,274	23	-8%
TX Values in Action Coalition	\$467,473	41	-	-	NA
TX Opportunity PAC	\$395,419	48	-	-	NA
Republican Party of Fort Bend Co.	\$393,306	49	-	-	NA
Travis Co. Democratic Party	\$375,270	53	\$156,987	98	139%
TX Progress Council	\$340,138	62	-	-	NA
TX 2020 PAC	\$337,892	64	\$80,553	172	319%
Friends of The University	\$326,921	67	\$330,247	42	-1%
Texans for School Choice	\$211,757	98	-	-	NA
Houston PAC	\$207,212	99	-	-	NA
Campaign For Republican Leadership	\$201,585	104	\$26,297	357	667%

After Ideological PACs—discussed in the previous chapter—the Miscellaneous Business sector grew the fastest, increasing its spending 71 percent from 2004 to 2006 (nonetheless this sector accounted for just 4 percent of all 2006 PAC spending). Republic Beverage’s BG Distribution Partners was one of Texas’ fastest-growth PACs, more than quintupling its spending from 2004 to in excess of \$1 million. Meanwhile the Licensed Beverage Distributors PAC more than doubled its spending, clearing \$300,000. In 2006 the wholesale liquor industry made a large play (HB 2266) to repeal rules that force bars and restaurants to buy hooch from package liquor stores. Package stores retaliated by urging the legislature to allow liquor manufacturers to sell directly to package stores—thereby bypassing the wholesalers (HB 2525). Hung up—or over—by such a wicked mix of drinks, lawmakers never uncorked either bill from the House Licensing Committee.

The top-spending sectors after Ideological and Single-Issue PACs were four business PAC categories: Lawyers & Lobbyists (accounting for 12 percent of 2006 PAC spending), Energy & Natural Resources (8 percent), Health (7 percent) and Real Estate (6 percent).

Lawyers & Lobbyists

Lawyers & Lobbyists, the biggest Business PAC sector, accounted for 12 percent of all 2006 PAC spending (\$12 million), despite that fact that this sector expanded by a comparatively modest 6 percent from 2004 to 2006. The trial-lawyer financed Texans for Insurance Reform PAC led this sector, spending \$2 million. Most of the top recipients of this PAC's funds were Democratic House candidates. Corpus Christi trial lawyer Mikal Watts, who plans to challenge U.S. Senator John Cornyn next year, runs the Good Government PAC, which doubled its spending to \$931,233. Meanwhile the Texas Trial Lawyer Association cut its PAC spending in half to \$833,547.

Top Lawyers & Lobbyists PACs

PAC	2006 Spending	2006 Rank	2004 Spending	2004 Rank	'04-'06 Change
Texans for Insurance Reform	\$2,015,611	7	\$1,911,888	6	5%
HillCo PAC	\$1,010,227	18	\$705,343	15	43%
Good Government PAC	\$931,233	19	\$465,915	26	100%
Vinson & Elkins	\$918,700	21	\$970,289	11	-5%
Texas Trial Lawyers Assn.	\$883,547	22	\$1,665,284	8	-47%
Texas Assn. of Mortgage Attorneys	\$794,263	23	\$647,500	17	23%
Fulbright & Jaworski	\$718,666	24	\$805,250	13	-11%
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld	\$587,827	29	\$461,951	28	27%
Andrews & Kurth	\$528,250	35	\$516,813	22	2%
Baker Botts	\$471,772	40	\$435,167	31	8%
Winstead, Sechrest & Minick	\$458,133	43	\$310,950	47	47%
Bracewell & Giuliani	\$425,796	44	\$483,421	25	-12%
Hughes & Luce	\$396,643	47	\$312,098	45	27%
Haynes & Boone	\$330,045	65	\$238,950	63	38%
Jackson Walker	\$280,781	73	\$250,622	60	12%
Gardere Wynne Sewell	\$248,375	84	\$261,524	56	-5%
Thompson & Knight	\$228,500	90	\$129,250	117	77%
Brown McCarroll	\$140,850	151	\$168,100	89	-16%
Texas Assn. of Defense Counsel	\$112,250	179	\$69,037	196	63%
Jenkins & Gilchrist	\$107,900	185	\$99,820	141	8%

HillCo Partners lobby firm's PAC cleared \$1 million in expenditures, getting more of its money from Houston homebuilder Bob Perry than any other source. The Texas Association of Mortgage Attorneys, a major backer of House Speaker Tom Craddick, increased its PAC spending significantly to \$794,263. Led by Vinson & Elkins and Fulbright & Jaworski, corporate law firms accounted for most of the remaining top Lawyers & Lobbyists PACs.

Energy & Natural Resources

Energy & Natural Resources PACs spent \$7.4 million—up 34 percent from 2004. Awash in profits, the oil and gas industry pumped up its PAC spending, led by Valero Refining, which boosted its spending significantly to \$2.3 million. After Valero came Texas Oil & Gas PAC, ConocoPhillips and the Bass family PACs: the Good Government Fund and PSEL PAC. Several oil and petrochemical PACs also made the accompanying list of the fastest-growing PACs. These include ExxonMobil (which quintupled its spending), Lyondell and ConocoPhillips.

Top Energy & Natural Resources PACs

PAC	2006 Spending	2006 Rank	2004 Spending	2004 Rank	'04-'06 Change
Valero Refining & Marketing PAC	\$2,347,879	5	\$1,607,132	9	46%
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.	\$402,694	45	\$488,886	24	-18%
Reliant Energy, Inc.	\$356,111	56	\$361,574	38	-2%
TX Oil & Gas PAC	\$354,000	58	\$311,500	46	14%
TX Employee PAC of TXU Corp.	\$296,385	71	\$349,935	39	-15%
American Electric Power	\$286,619	72	\$111,300	129	158%
Lyondell Petrochemical Co.	\$275,918	74	\$59,624	215	363%
ConocoPhillips SPIRIT PAC	\$220,580	93	\$61,780	206	257%
Electric Delivery PAC of TXU Corp.	\$217,103	94	\$209,358	70	4%
Power & Energy PAC of TXU Corp.	\$182,619	114	\$230,418	65	-21%
Employees of Dow Chemical Co.	\$173,689	118	\$78,411	179	122%
*Good Government Fund	\$170,250	120	\$147,920	105	15%
*PSEL PAC	\$167,500	122	\$110,000	133	52%
Occidental Petroleum Corp.	\$163,683	127	\$127,759	120	28%
Rural Friends of TX Electric Co-ops	\$159,050	131	\$108,400	135	47%
El Paso Corp.	\$156,682	135	\$35,416	295	342%
Mirant Corp.	\$135,402	158	\$3,719	624	3,541%
Atmos Energy Corp.	\$121,356	171	\$30,478	325	298%
Halliburton Energy Services	\$107,240	188	\$129,075	118	-17%
Exxon Mobil Corp.	\$106,000	192	\$17,000	414	524%

*Affiliated with the oil-rich Bass family of Fort Worth.

Electricity PACs formed this sector's other bastion of power. Yet the top electricity PACs generally eased their spending from 2004 to 2006. CenterPoint, Reliant and three TXU PACs (\$696,107 combined) all reduced spending in 2006.⁴ Atlanta-based electric wholesaler Mirant Corp., on the other hand, topped the accompanying list of the fastest-growing PACs, increasing its PAC spending from less than \$4,000 in 2004 to \$135,402. Other power PACs that doubled or tripled their PAC spending were: El Paso Corp., Atmos Energy and American Electric Power.

Health PACs

Led by the Texas Medical Association (TMA), Health PACs ranked No. 3 among Business PACs. Yet this sector's overall spending increase of 19 percent fell short of that of the Business category as a whole. Spending by TMA, the Texas Optometric PAC, the Texas Dental Association and the Texas Hospital Association declined since the 2004 cycle, when this industry spent heavily to cap its legal liability in medical malpractice cases. The newly formed Texas Border PAC led 2006 growth in this sector. Harvesting \$6,000 apiece from dozens of physicians along the Texas-Mexico border, this PAC made its largest contributions to Governor Perry and Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst (approximately \$50,000 apiece). Two leading medical-specialty PACs—the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists and the Texas Ophthalmological Association—also increased spending by approximately 20 percent apiece.

Top Health PACs

PAC	2006 Cycle Spending	2006 PAC Rank	2004 Cycle Spending	2004 PAC Rank	'04-'06 Spending Change
TX Medical Assn.	\$1,896,648	8	\$1,919,026	5	-1%
Border Health PAC	\$667,787	25	-	-	NA
TX Optometric PAC	\$576,721	32	\$598,844	18	-4%
TX Dental Assn.	\$367,009	54	\$593,590	19	-38%
TX Society of Anesthesiologists	\$216,283	96	\$181,095	80	19%
TX Ophthalmological Assn.	\$212,069	97	\$175,763	85	21%
TX Hospital Assn.	\$206,733	100	\$239,932	62	-14%

Real Estate PACs

Real estate PACs increased spending 29 percent to \$6.2 million. The Texas Association of Realtors and its affiliated Issues Mobilization PAC accounted for two-thirds of this spending, with the Issues Mobilization PAC increasing its expenditures by more than 600 percent since 2004. The Issues Mobilization PAC made its largest expenditures on media buys and on payments to HillCo Partners lobby firm. It paid \$50,000 to Texans for Taxpayer Relief, a business group running ads supporting the school-finance plan proposed by Governor Perry's Texas Tax Reform Commission (a proposal that did not seek to tax real estate transactions). The PAC also gave \$20,000 to It's About Time Corpus Christi, a business group that sought to ban vehicles from driving on part of the beach on North Padre Island.

Top Real Estate PACs

PAC	2006 Cycle Spending	2006 PAC Rank	2004 Cycle Spending	2004 PAC Rank	'04-'06 Spending Change
TX Assn. of Realtors	\$3,334,075	2	\$2,967,081	2	12%
TX Assn. of Realtors Issues Mobilization	\$929,600	20	-	115	609%
TX Apartment Assn. PAC	\$382,732	52	\$324,000	43	18%
Houston Apartment Assn.	\$230,660	88	\$268,608	54	-14%
Houston Realty Breakfast Club	\$185,073	111	-	127	54%
Apartment Assn. of Greater Dallas	\$170,347	119	-	126	42%
Apartment Assn. of Tarrant Co.	\$103,506	197	\$154,452	99	-33%

IV. Specific-Purpose PACs

This report focuses on the 1,132 so-called “general-purpose PACs” that were active in Texas in the 2006 election cycle. During this same period, however, dozens of so-called “specific purpose PACs” also reported political contributions and expenditures to the Texas Ethics Commission. Most of these specific-purpose PACs formed for the exclusive support of a specific candidate, as in the case of “Texans for Rick Perry.” Yet 19 specific-purpose PACs that spent a total of \$1.1 million operated for other purposes, most often to influence a proposed state constitutional amendment.

Ten specific-purpose PACs trying to influence the November 2005 initiative to constitutionally outlaw gay marriages spent \$902,469—or 81 percent of all specific-purpose expenditures. Although PACs opposing the amendment significantly outspent proponents, the amendment passed with 76 percent of the vote.⁵

Gay-Marital Spat PACs

Gay-Marriage- Amendment Specific-Purpose PAC	Amount Spent In 2006 Cycle	Position On Amendment
No Nonsense in November	\$327,370	Against
Texans For Marriage	\$305,563	For
Vote Against the Amendment	\$211,966	Against
TX Equity PAC*	\$31,938	Against
Vote Yes on Prop Two	\$8,750	For
Texas Marriage Alliance	\$8,340	For
Texas Freedom Network	\$4,062	Against
Practice What You Preach PAC	\$2,197	Against
Texans United	\$1,302	Against
Save Texas Marriage	\$981	Against
TOTAL:	\$902,469	

*Also known as ‘No Nonsense In 2006 PAC.’

The largest specific-purpose PAC unrelated to gay marriages was Citizens in Support of College District Expansion. It spent construction and other business money to promote a bond initiative for new Houston school facilities. “ACC San Marcos Yes” promoted a 2005 petition drive to get local voters to approve funding to join the Austin Community College system.

Other Specific-Purpose PACs Active in 2006

Political Action Committee	Amount Spent In 2006 Cycle
Citizens In Support of College Dist. Expansion	\$97,512
SafeRail PAC	\$56,747
Citizens for Better Transportation	\$32,776
TX Assn. of Reverse Mortgage Lenders	\$20,324
ACC San Marcos Yes	\$3,805
Yes on 2 & 15	\$2,994
Keep Your Rights	\$2,096
Texans For Economic Growth	\$1,000
Friends of UTD (University of TX at Dallas)	\$1,000
TOTAL:	\$220,260

Several specific-purpose PACs promoted transportation issues. Trans-Texas Corridor proponents including construction interests and Governor Perry's campaign bankrolled SafeRail PAC to successfully push a constitutional amendment permitting the Texas Department of Transportation to use bond revenue to divert rail lines around crowded areas.⁶ The business funded Citizens for Better Transportation boosts the San Antonio Mobility Coalition, which seeks greater authority and funding for local transportation projects. A HillCo Partners lobbyist created the now defunct "Yes on 2 & 15" to help pass 2001 amendments authorizing bond-financed highway construction. This PAC transferred \$12,000 in leftover funds to "Yes On 14," which promoted a similar initiative in 2003.

Lenders created two specific-purpose PACs. The Texas Association of Reverse Mortgage Lenders (TARML) promotes a type of loan popular with elderly people who want to create a cash flow by selling lenders equity in their homes. After Texas legalized these loans in 1999, TARML helped pass a 2005 amendment that permits reverse-mortgage lines of credit.⁷ The same day, voters defeated a proposed amendment to deregulate interest rates on certain commercial loans. Beal Bank's Texans for Economic Growth unsuccessfully promoted this Proposition 5.

V. Top 100 PACs in Texas

'06 Rank	'04 Rank	'02 Rank	'00 Rank	'98 Rank	'96 Rank	PAC Name	2006 Spending	Interest Category
1	1	4	5	5	3	Texans For Lawsuit Reform	\$4,224,428	Ideological/Single Issue
2	2	5	4	6	4	TX Assn. of Realtors	\$3,334,075	Real Estate
3	-	-	-	-	-	TX Repub. Legis. Camp. Com.	\$2,726,907	Ideological/Single Issue
4	3	2	2	2	2	Republican Party of TX	\$2,604,523	Ideological/Single Issue
5	9	12	41	79	47	Valero Refining & Marketing	\$2,347,879	Energy/Nat'l Resources
6	-	-	-	-	-	TX Democratic Trust	\$2,256,378	Ideological/Single Issue
7	6	-	-	-	-	Texans for Insurance Reform	\$2,015,611	Lawyers/Lobbyists
8	5	7	8	12	16	TX Medical Assn.	\$1,896,648	Health
9	4	1	1	1	1	TX Democratic Party	\$1,553,206	Ideological/Single Issue
10	7	26	6	3	6	Associated Republicans of TX	\$1,472,061	Ideological/Single Issue
11	-	-	-	-	-	Harris Co. Republican Party	\$1,397,049	Ideological/Single Issue
12	10	15	12	11	9	SBC TX Employee PAC	\$1,253,856	Communications
13	30	-	-	-	-	Annie's List	\$1,098,083	Ideological/Single Issue
14	12	-	-	-	-	Stars Over TX	\$1,085,121	Ideological/Single Issue
15	36	-	-	-	-	House Democratic Camp. Com.	\$1,051,894	Ideological/Single Issue
16	92	-	-	-	-	BG Distribution Partners	\$1,024,000	Miscellaneous
17	49	142	623	-	-	Ryan & Co.	\$1,015,088	Finance
18	15	32	102	-	-	HillCo	\$1,010,227	Lawyers/Lobbyists
19	26	-	-	-	-	Good Government PAC	\$931,233	Lawyers/Lobbyists
20	115	196	-	-	-	TX Assn. Realtors-Issues PAC	\$929,601	Real Estate
21	11	9	7	4	5	Vinson & Elkins	\$918,700	Lawyers/Lobbyists
22	8	3	9	7	7	TX Trial Lawyers Assn.	\$883,547	Lawyers/Lobbyists
23	17	141	129	-	-	TX Assn. of Mortgage Attorneys	\$794,263	Lawyers/Lobbyists
24	13	14	19	10	17	Fulbright & Jaworski	\$718,666	Lawyers/Lobbyists
25	-	-	-	-	-	Border Health PAC	\$667,788	Health
26	-	-	-	-	-	Future of TX Alliance	\$655,655	Ideological/Single Issue
27	-	-	-	-	-	Dallas Co. Democratic PAC	\$641,775	Ideological/Single Issue
28	-	-	-	-	-	Dallas Co. Republican Party	\$616,554	Ideological/Single Issue
29	28	29	30	42	41	Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld	\$587,827	Lawyers/Lobbyists
30	41	87	256	-	-	TX Friends of Time Warner Cable	\$587,680	Communications
31	20	57	98	-	-	Union Pacific Corp.	\$586,762	Transportation
32	18	30	33	35	14	TX Optometric PAC	\$576,722	Health
33	48	34	42	32	38	TX Farm Bureau	\$563,966	Agriculture
34	32	27	25	22	28	TX State Teachers Assn.	\$547,839	Labor
35	22	85	36	37	45	Andrews & Kurth	\$528,250	Lawyers/Lobbyists
36	40	-	-	-	-	TX Federation of Repub. Women	\$523,562	Ideological/Single Issue
37	27	25	28	24	30	Farmers Employee & Agent PAC	\$514,111	Insurance
38	-	-	-	-	-	TX Parent PAC	\$492,799	Ideological/Single Issue
39	23	234	-	-	-	Friends of Phil Gramm	\$473,039	Ideological/Single Issue
40	31	63	73	23	29	Baker Botts	\$471,772	Lawyers/Lobbyists
41	-	-	-	-	-	TX Values in Action Coalition	\$467,473	Ideological/Single Issue
42	33	46	-	-	-	Q PAC	\$466,894	Finance
43	47	61	65	45	67	Winstead, Sechrest & Minick	\$458,133	Lawyers/Lobbyists
44	25	28	34	28	46	Bracewell & Patterson	\$425,796	Lawyers/Lobbyists
45	24	104	95	101	137	CenterPoint Energy, Inc.	\$402,694	Energy/Nat'l Resources
46	35	16	16	13	12	TX Automobile Dealers Assn.	\$400,663	Transportation
47	45	41	45	36	50	Hughes & Luce	\$396,643	Lawyers/Lobbyists

48	-	-	-	-	-	TX Opportunity PAC	\$395,419	Ideological/Single Issue
49	-	-	-	-	-	Republican Party Fort Bend Co.	\$393,306	Ideological/Single Issue
50	44	53	53	99	120	Home PAC	\$390,639	Construction
51	29	247	284	172	217	Fort Worth Firefighters	\$387,785	Labor
52	43	40	72	49	58	TX Apartment Assn.	\$382,733	Real Estate
53	98	58	536	336	32	Travis Co. Democratic Party	\$375,270	Ideological/Single Issue
54	19	20	18	18	19	TX Dental Assn.	\$367,010	Health
55	67	56	66	43	35	Independent Insurance Agents	\$356,623	Insurance
56	38	19	17	15	15	Reliant Energy, Inc.	\$356,111	Energy/Nat'l Resources
57	57	48	70	62	66	Independent Bankers Assn.	\$354,962	Finance
58	46	31	35	29	-	TX Oil & Gas PAC	\$354,000	Energy/Nat'l Resources
59	55	17	13	17	13	United Services Auto. Assn.	\$353,780	Insurance
60	-	-	-	-	-	ACC Capital Holdings	\$345,750	Finance
61	21	23	10	48	40	Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc.	\$340,935	Miscellaneous
62	-	-	-	-	-	TX Progress Council	\$340,138	Ideological/Single Issue
63	61	65	60	46	43	Wholesale Beer Distributors	\$338,740	Miscellaneous
64	172	-	-	-	-	TX 2020	\$337,892	Ideological/Single Issue
65	63	37	59	-	-	Haynes & Boone	\$330,045	Lawyers/Lobbyists
66	58	103	-	-	-	Landry's Seafood Restaurants	\$328,608	Miscellaneous
67	42	102	126	75	73	Friends of the University	\$326,921	Ideological/Single Issue
68	34	35	49	123	803	Houston Police Officers Union	\$320,129	Labor
69	147	188	117	98	84	Licensed Beverage Distributors	\$312,850	Miscellaneous
70	88	129	223	104	116	TX Architects Committee	\$311,011	Construction
71	39	22	51	-	-	TX Employee PAC of TXU Corp.	\$296,385	Energy/Nat'l Resources
72	129	-	-	-	-	American Electric Power	\$286,619	Energy/Nat'l Resources
73	60	72	46	111	141	Jackson Walker	\$280,781	Lawyers/Lobbyists
74	215	116	146	508	338	Lyondell Petrochemical Co.	\$275,918	Energy/Nat'l Resources
75	64	33	69	40	62	TX Aggregates & Concrete Assn.	\$274,704	Construction
76	52	59	52	38	31	TX Assn. Insurance & Fin'l	\$273,079	Insurance
77	102	79	31	21	71	TX Manufactured Housing Assn.	\$262,970	Construction
78	51	551	-	-	-	MAXXAM, Inc.	\$261,007	Finance
79	94	68	71	50	80	Assoc. General Contractors of TX	\$256,316	Construction
80	14	18	23	30	27	Burlington Northern Santa Fe	\$255,465	Transportation
81	74	98	77	107	83	TX Credit Union League	\$255,331	Finance
82	83	112	175	144	136	Greater Houston Builders Assn.	\$254,400	Construction
83	59	76	155	117	145	Plumbers Local No. 68	\$249,097	Labor
84	56	45	103	85	117	Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP	\$248,375	Lawyers/Lobbyists
85	66	77	82	81	127	TX Classroom Teachers Assn.	\$246,508	Labor
86	69	210	421	-	-	Grande Communications	\$242,000	Computers
87	119	152	151	192	165	TX Consumer Finance Assn.	\$240,329	Finance
88	54	54	90	80	92	Houston Apartment Assn.	\$230,660	Real Estate
89	87	93	224	265	185	Kirby Corp.	\$229,239	Transportation
90	117	105	131	159	248	Thompson & Knight	\$228,500	Lawyers/Lobbyists
91	189	96	136	124	93	TX Bankers Assn.	\$227,002	Finance
92	91	60	47	56	70	Beef PAC	\$221,974	Agriculture
93	206	-	-	-	-	ConocoPhillips	\$220,580	Energy/Nat'l Resources
94	70	125	62	59	64	Electric Delivery PAC of TXU	\$217,103	Energy/Nat'l Resources
95	104	-	506	272	-	Citizens For A Better Fort Worth	\$216,719	Miscellaneous
96	80	95	93	90	375	TX Society of Anesthesiologists	\$216,284	Health
97	85	114	91	55	36	TX Ophthalmological Assn.	\$212,070	Health
98	-	-	-	-	-	Texans for School Choice	\$211,757	Ideological/Single Issue
99	-	-	-	-	-	Houston PAC	\$207,212	Ideological/Single Issue
100	62	52	56	89	68	TX Hospital Assn.	\$206,734	Health

ENDNOTES

¹ The largest PAC expenditures typically are contributions to candidates or other PACs; PACs also spend money on overhead and other expenses—which also are included here.

² This falls short of the \$57 million that banker Tony Sanchez contributed to his own Democratic campaign for governor in 2002.

³ The Enterprise Fund gave \$20 million that same year to Ameritrust competitor Countrywide Financial to locate major new operations in North Texas. The now-troubled Countrywide was a major player in the predatory-mortgage market that inflated the national housing bubble—before its ultimate collapse.

⁴ When the money spent by the three TXU PACs listed here is combined with the \$94,577 spent by the smaller TXU Corporate PAC, TXU's four affiliated PACs spent a grand total of \$790,684 in the 2006 cycle. For more on TXU PACs, see "TXU's Patronage Grid Plugs All But Seven Lawmakers," TPJ's *Lobby Watch*, March 1, 2007. See:

http://www.tpj.org/page_view.jsp?pageid=1147&pubid=903

⁵ For more on PACs working this issue, see, "In Gay-Marital Amendment Spat, Tolerant Give More Than Intolerant," Texans for Public Justice, October 25, 2005.

http://www.tpj.org/page_view.jsp?pageid=906&pubid=669

⁶ Proposition 1 passed with 54 percent of the vote in November 2005.

⁷ Proposition 7.