

LOBBY WATCH



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54 More Rich Donors Join the ‘\$100,000 Club’

- Club’s 140 members give \$52 Million—27 percent of the system total.
- Booze industry goes on a bender.

During the recent 2006 election 140 wealthy individuals donated more than \$100,000 apiece to Texas state PACs and candidates. This is up 63 percent from the 86 individuals who cleared \$100,000 in 2004.

With many “\$100,000 Club” members spending much more than 100 grand the 140 elite donors dropped \$52 million on the last election, accounting for 27 percent of the \$191 million total raised by state PACs and candidates. The word on Texas’ gated streets is that you can beat the S&P 500 by investing in the state’s ingratiating politicians.

Meanwhile barbarians at the gates are trying to put a lid on the country-club set. A bill by Rep. Mike Villarreal (D-San Antonio) would bar any individual from contributing an aggregate total of more than \$100,000 to state candidates and PACs in a given election (HB 111).

The \$100,000 Club’s burgeoning membership (see full list below) accounts for only part of the club’s \$23 million spending increase. The almost \$13 million that longtime club pacesetters Bob Perry and James Leininger spent on the 2006 election more than doubled what this dynamic duo spent in 2004. Perry and

Leininger accounted for a stunning 30 percent of the spending hike by all club members in this period.

The contributions by Republicans Perry and Leininger were partially offset by \$2.1 million from club newcomer Fred Baron. This recently retired trial lawyer has been trying to resuscitate the ailing Texas Democratic Party.

The accompanying table breaks down \$100,000 Club members by their underlying industries and compares the 2006 industry breakdown to that of 2004. This comparison reveals the biggest industry shifts in the \$100,000 Club’s membership and contributions.

While Construction moved up a notch to become the club’s top-spending industry in 2006, this increase is almost entirely the result of homebuilder Bob Perry, who contributed an additional \$2.6 million in 2006.

A more interesting shift occurred in the Miscellaneous Business sector, which jumped to second place from its No. 6 ranking in 2004. Contributions from club members in this sector increased more than 300 percent as the club signed up a net increase of 16 new members from this sector in 2006.

The Special Interests of '\$100,000 Club' Members

Interest Group	2006 Rank	2004 Rank	Total From \$100-G Club (2006 Cycle)	No. of Club Donors	Percent of Club Money	Change In Club Money Since 2004	Change In Members Since 2004
Construction	1	2	\$9,075,242	10	18%	56%	3
Miscellaneous Business	2	6	\$8,605,282	28	17%	304%	16
Lawyers & Lobbyists	3	3	\$7,352,144	22	14%	71%	2
Health	4	7	\$6,941,771	5	13%	243%	0
Finance	5	4	\$6,822,523	19	13%	157%	8
Energy/Natural Resources	6	1	\$4,129,793	18	8%	-45%	7
Real Estate	7	5	\$3,144,290	13	6%	47%	4
Transportation	8	8	\$2,396,359	9	5%	202%	4
Agriculture	9	10	\$1,090,120	3	2%	142%	2
Communications	10	9	\$818,850	3	2%	52%	0
Insurance	11	11	\$439,134	3	1%	80%	1
Computers & Electronics	12	0	\$603,607	5	1%	NA	5
Other	13	0	\$298,649	2	1%	NA	2
TOTALS:			\$51,717,765	140	100%	81%	54

Seven of this sector's 16 new recruits made fortunes as alcohol distributors. Republic Beverage (which includes Block Distributing and Magnolia Marketing) now boasts four \$100,000 Club members. Rival Glazer's Distributing has three.

These booze wholesalers served politicians triple shots in 2006 in an effort (HB 2266) to repeal rules that force bars and restaurants to buy hooch from package liquor stores. Yet those who demand free markets must beware what they ask for. Package stores retaliated by urging the legislature to allow liquor manufacturers to sell directly to package stores—thereby bypassing the wholesalers (HB 2525).

Another dynamic sector for the \$100,000 Club is Health, which moved up to No. 4 from its seventh-place ranking in 2004. Although members in the Health sector increased their contributions \$5 million, this was almost entirely the handiwork of Dr. James Leininger, who made a fortune selling hi-tech hospital beds. Leininger spent \$4 million more in 2006 than he did in the preceding election.

The Energy & Natural Resources industry was the only sector in which contributions by club members plummeted. This industry dropped from No. 1 in 2004 to sixth place. The more than \$5 million drop in spending by these members resulted from oil billionaire

Tony Sanchez's retirement from the \$100,000 Club. Sanchez belonged in 2004 when he still was paying off some of the tens of millions of dollars that he had loaned himself for his failed 2002 Democratic campaign to be governor.

Some newcomers to the \$100,000 Club in 2006 joined as a result of one-horse bets on Texas' bizarre four-way gubernatorial race.¹ The candidacy of independent Kinky Friedman prompted his friends John McCall (\$1.2 million), Barbara Bowman (\$264,025) and Jimmy Buffet (\$219,700) to join the club for perhaps the first and only time.

Chris Bell's Democratic candidacy brought newcomer Ricardo Weitz (\$555,956) into the fold and prompted veteran John O'Quinn (\$1.1 million) to almost quadruple what he spent in 2004.

Similarly, independent Carole Keeton Strayhorn had much to do with increased expenditures by Ryan & Co. partners in the \$100,000 Club. Ryan & Co.—which dunned Strayhorn for corporate tax breaks when she was comptroller—went from three to four club members in 2006. Meanwhile, chief George Ryan more than quadrupled his spending in 2006 to \$1.4 million, with most of it benefiting Strayhorn.

Texas' 2006 Election Cycle '\$100,000 Club'

Amount In				
Cycle	Contributor	City	Company/Occupation	Interest Group
\$7,167,064	*Bob & Doylene Perry	Houston	Perry Homes	Construction
\$5,551,966	*James & Cecilia Leininger	San Antonio	Kinetic Concepts Inc.	Health
\$2,100,821	Fred & Lisa Baron	Dallas	Baron & Budd, PC	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$1,390,354	*George & Amanda Ryan	Dallas	Ryan & Co. PC	Finance
\$1,205,921	*Charles C. Butt	San Antonio	HEB Grocery Co.	Miscellaneous Business
\$1,201,545	John Herschel McCall	Spicewood	Armstrong McCall Beauty	Miscellaneous Business
\$1,200,348	*T. Boone Pickens Jr.	Dallas	BP Capital	Finance
\$1,129,400	*Harold Simmons	Dallas	Contran Corp.	Finance
\$1,116,556	*John M. O'Quinn	Houston	O'Quinn Laminack & Pirtle	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$766,300	*David & Martha Alameel	Dallas	Jefferson Dental Clinics PC	Health
\$620,750	*Robert C. McNair Jr.	Houston	Houston Texans, CoGen	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$555,956	Ricardo Weitz	Houston	Auto Dealer	Transportation
\$554,717	*Richard W. Weekley	Houston	Weekley Properties	Real Estate
\$548,509	*John L. & Barbara Nau III	Houston	Silver Eagle Distributors L.P.	Miscellaneous Business
\$537,175	*Thomas Dan Friedkin	Houston	Friedkin Companies Inc.	Transportation
\$531,114	*Lonnie A. 'Bo' Pilgrim	Pittsburg	Pilgrim's Pride Poultry	Agriculture
\$525,889	*Walter Umphrey	Beaumont	Provost & Umphrey Law	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$503,600	*Michael Stevens	Houston	Michael Stevens Interests	Real Estate
\$496,385	*John Eddie Williams Jr.	Houston	Williams Bailey Law Firm,	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$469,934	*Harlan & Katherine Crow	Dallas	Crow Holdings	Real Estate
\$460,100	*Geoffrey Raynor	Fort Worth	Q Funding, LP	Finance
\$458,262	*Louis & Julie Beecherl	Dallas	Beecherl Co's	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$419,657	*Russell Kelley	Austin	Public Strategies LLC	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$415,750	*Peter & Edith O'Donnell	Dallas	O'Donnell Foundation	Finance
\$408,875	Bennett Joe Glazer	Dallas	Glazer's Wholesale Drug	Miscellaneous Business
\$401,000	*Alice L. Walton	Mineral Wells	Wal-Mart	Miscellaneous Business
\$400,000	*Stevan Hammond	Dallas	Marketing Investors	Communications
\$397,000	*James D. Pitcock Jr.	Houston	Williams Brothers	Construction
\$393,780	*Peter & Julianna Holt	Blanco	Holt Companies	Construction
\$389,975	*Alan W. Dreeben	Schertz	Block Distributing	Miscellaneous Business
\$365,000	Alan Franco	New Orleans	Magnolia Marketing Co.	Miscellaneous Business
\$365,000	Jeff Goldring	Houston	Republic Beverage Co.	Miscellaneous Business
\$364,375	Edward Block	Schertz	Block Distributing	Agriculture
\$341,000	W. Marvin & Barbara Rush	San Antonio	Rush Enterprise Inc.	Transportation
\$332,000	*Robert & Terry Rowling	Irving	TRT Holdings, Inc.	Miscellaneous Business
\$326,000	*Barkley J. Stuart	Dallas	Glazer's Wholesale Drug	Miscellaneous Business
\$319,125	Gordon T. Graves	Austin	Graves Management, Inc.	Miscellaneous Business
\$303,000	*Gerald Ridgely Jr.	Dallas	Ryan & Co. P. C.	Finance
\$302,500	*Kenny & Lisa Troutt	Dallas	Mt. Vernon Investments LLC	Communications
\$301,370	Russell W. Budd	Dallas	Baron & Budd PC	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$287,625	Harold W. Nix	Daingerfield	Nix Patterson & Roach	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$265,463	Greg LaMantia	McAllen	L & F Distributors	Miscellaneous Business
\$265,141	Paul L. Foster	El Paso	Western Refining Co.	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$264,025	Barbara Bowman	San Antonio	Oil Heiress	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$248,348	*Dan L. Duncan	Houston	Enterprise Products	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$239,505	*Dian Owen Graves Stai	Abilene	Owen Healthcare Inc.	Health
\$239,191	Barry G. Andrews	Dallas	Andrews Distributing	Miscellaneous Business
\$233,894	*James D. Dannenbaum	Houston	Dannenbaum Engineering	Construction
\$227,000	*Ralph & Joy Ellis Jr.	Irving	Belmont Oil And Gas Corp.	Energy/Nat'l Resources

\$226,993	Robert A. Mosbacher Jr.	Houston	Mosbacher Enerav	Enerav/Nat'l Resources
\$223,000	Maconda O'Connor	Houston	Doctor	Health
\$219,700	Jimmy Buffet	Hollywood	Singer	Miscellaneous Business
\$214,000	*Charles E. Hurwitz	Houston	MAXXAM Inc.	Finance
\$208,373	*Charles W. & Judy Tate	Sugar land	Capital Royalty LLC	Finance
\$206,638	*H. Ross Perot Jr.	Plano	Hillwood Development	Real Estate
\$200,000	Dawn Arnall	Los Angeles	Ameriquet Mortgage	Finance
\$197,500	Joseph F. Phillips	Mission	Convenience stores	Miscellaneous Business
\$197,000	*Mr. & Mrs. Erle A. Nye	Dallas	TXU Energy Corp.	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$196,065	*W. Mark & Becky Lanier	Houston	Lanier Law Firm P.C.	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$195,000	Terralynn Swift	Houston	Swift Energy Company	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$194,631	Jerry & Glenda Kane	Corpus Christi	Sam Kane Beef Processors	Agriculture
\$194,100	*Ray L. Hunt	Dallas	Hunt Consolidated, Inc.	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$193,500	*Mr/Mrs William A. McMinn	Houston	Sterling Group	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$193,329	Patrick J. Moran	Houston	Moran Resources	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$192,961	Mr/Mrs Steve Sterquell II	Amarillo	American Housing	Real Estate
\$190,100	Richard & Ginni Mithoff	Houston	Mithoff & Jacks LLP	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$189,500	Richard Thompson	Lucas	Ryan & Co. P. C.	Finance
\$189,014	David H. Dewhurst	Austin	State Of Texas	Other
\$187,347	*Ned S. Holmes	Houston	Parkway Investments/Texas	Real Estate
\$186,595	*Randall G. Goss	Dallas	U.S. RISK	Insurance
\$186,000	*Mr/Mrs Albert Huddleston	Dallas	Hyperion Resources Inc.	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$184,500	Richard Scott	Houston	Trans-Global Solutions	Transportation
\$180,000	Christine Mattsson	Austin	Tippingpoint Technologies	Computers & Electronics
\$179,359	*John Victor Lattimore Jr.	Mc Kinney	Lattimore Materials	Construction
\$176,234	*Michael B. Boylan	Houston	Houston Property	Real Estate
\$174,865	*James L. Huffines	Dallas	Huffines Auto Dealerships	Transportation
\$174,773	*HB & Mollie Zachry Jr.	San Antonio	Zachry Construction Corp.	Construction
\$170,750	*B.J. 'Red' McCombs	San Antonio	Red McCombs Automotive	Transportation
\$169,250	*Robert D. McLane Jr.	Temple	McLane Company Inc.	Miscellaneous Business
\$165,704	*Charles B. Lawrence	Houston	Kirby Corporation	Transportation
\$164,980	*J. Robert & Sherry Brown	El Paso	Desert Eagle Distributing	Miscellaneous Business
\$163,500	John Speer	Houston	Royce Homes	Construction
\$162,500	Stephen Jones	Dallas	Dallas Cowboys Football	Miscellaneous Business
\$161,500	Trammell S. Crow Jr.	Dallas	Crow Holdings	Real Estate
\$161,000	*William & Wendy Boothe	Dallas	Booth Eye Care Center	Health
\$160,323	*Woody L. & Gayle Hunt	El Paso	Hunt Corp.	Real Estate
\$159,567	*George C. Hixon	San Antonio	Hixon Properties	Real Estate
\$158,000	Lee Fikes	Dallas	Bonanza Oil Inc.	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$156,880	Robert D. Gillikin	Dallas	Cummins Southern Plains	Miscellaneous Business
\$156,000	Julia Jones Matthews	Abilene	Dodge Jones Foundation	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$155,503	*Kenneth P. Banks	Schulenburg	International Muffler Co.	Transportation
\$154,997	Michael T. Gallagher	Houston	Gallagher Law Firm	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$152,500	*Joseph D. Jamail	Houston	Jamail & Kolius	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$152,000	*H. Gary & Diane Heavin	Gatesville	Curves International, Inc.	Miscellaneous Business
\$151,000	*James Trester	Plano	Ryan & Co. P. C.	Finance
\$150,000	Frank & Molly Homer	Paris	Sonic franchisee	Miscellaneous Business
\$148,000	R. L. Glazer	Dallas	Glazer Dist.	Miscellaneous Business
\$147,822	*Kent R. Hance	Austin	Hance Scarborough Wright	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$146,750	Garrett & Cecilia Boone	Dallas	Container Store	Miscellaneous Business
\$144,125	*Walter & Suzette Negley	Houston	WWN Corp./Texas Screw	Miscellaneous Business
\$139,507	Carl F. Raba Jr.	San Antonio	Raba-Kistner Consultants	Construction
\$139,153	Clayton Williams Jr.	Midland	Clayton Williams Energy Inc.	Energy/Nat'l Resources

\$136,751	Ben & Melanie Barnes	Austin	EntreCorp	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$136,163	Joe R. & Teresa Long	Austin	First State Bank Central	Finance
\$136,125	Mr/Mrs James Perkins Jr.	Rusk	Citizens First Bank	Finance
\$133,354	Larry Anders	Dallas	Summit Alliance Companies	Insurance
\$130,350	Mark Friend Shurley	Fredericksburg	Attorney	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$130,000	Johnny Baker	Houston	Baker Managers LLC	Real Estate
\$125,171	John Needham	Austin	Riverside Resources	Real Estate
\$125,040	Thomas W. Pirtle	Houston	O'Quinn Laminack & Pirtle	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$124,955	R. Steven & Donna Hicks	Austin	Capstar Partners LLC	Finance
\$122,805	*Ben & Kathy Streusand	Woodlands	Home Loan Corporation	Finance
\$122,690	Stanley P. Jobe	El Paso	Jobe Concrete Products Inc.	Construction
\$122,578	Mr/Mrs Thomas Black Jr.	Lewisville	Black Mann & Graham LLP	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$120,500	Meredith J. Long	Houston	Meredith Long & Co.	Miscellaneous Business
\$119,500	*Mauricio R. Celis	Corpus Christi	Attorney	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$119,200	Stanley K. Harper	Arlington	Lenders & Members Service	Finance
\$119,185	Charles Wood Jr.	Dallas	Dallas Fire Insurance Co.	Insurance
\$117,500	Morton L. Topfer	Austin	Castletop Capital	Computers & Electronics
\$116,350	Lowry & Peggy Mays	San Antonio	Clear Channel	Communications
\$115,300	*Vance & 'Tincy' Miller	Dallas	Henry S. Miller Companies	Real Estate
\$114,160	*Wayne Reaud	Beaumont	Reaud Morgan & Quinn	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$113,000	Gary R. Petersen	Houston	Encap Investments LP	Finance
\$110,907	Ramsay Gillman	Houston	Gillman Companies	Transportation
\$109,635	Tom Craddick	Midland	State Of Texas	Other
\$108,519	George Fleming	Houston	Fleming & Associates LLP	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$105,500	Richard N. Laminack	Houston	O'Quinn Laminack & Pirtle	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$104,000	Michael S. & Susan Dell	Austin	Dell Inc	Computers & Electronics
\$103,750	Mr/Mrs Truman Arnold	Texarkana	Truman Arnold Company	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$103,500	John McStay	Dallas	McStay Investment Council	Finance
\$103,444	Bill Orr	Austin	Orr Holdings Ltd	Energy/Nat'l Resources
\$103,300	Marc & Wendy Stanley	Dallas	Stanley Mandel & Iola LLP	Lawyers & Lobbyists
\$103,000	Frank Mcguyer	Houston	Mcguyer Homebuilders	Construction
\$101,975	*Bobby D. & Leona Cox	Ft. Worth	Bobby Cox Companies Inc.	Miscellaneous Business
\$101,600	David & Jennifer Spencer	San Antonio	On Board Software Inc.	Computers & Electronics
\$101,000	Moshe Azoulay	Dallas	American Garment Finishers	Miscellaneous Business
\$100,517	Berkley V. Dawson	San Antonio	Budweiser Dist. Co.	Miscellaneous Business
\$100,507	Richard & Jill Salwen	Austin	Dell Inc	Computers & Electronics
\$100,450	Alan K. & Patti Harper	Arlington	Lenders & Members Service	Finance
\$51,512,934	TOTAL			

*This donor also made the \$100,000 Club in the 2004 cycle.

¹ See [Keeping Texas Weird 2006](#), Texans for Public Justice, September 25, 2006 and the report update, [30 Days Before the Election](#), published October 11, 2006.