

# LOBBY WATCH



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**Child Support:**

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## **Deloitte Adroit at Funding Sugar Daddy Greg Abbott**

**A** UT computer expert told the House last week that before Accenture became lead contractor on the then-Attorney General Abbott's disastrous child-support software project [Deloitte Consulting drafted](#) a hideously complex blueprint for the project that was designed to fail. The state payout to Deloitte for creating that monster ballooned from \$1.8 million to \$46 million. The overall project has bloated from \$202 million to [\\$310 million](#)—and counting.

Incompetent government and incompetent contractors thrive on one another—at our expense. As the *Dallas Morning News* [observed](#), this contracting malpractice occurred on the watch of then-Attorney General Greg Abbott. Abbott hired Deloitte and Accenture even after their previous state contracting [boondoggles](#). Yet nobody at the legislative hearing on this debacle mentioned Abbott, who has not publicly addressed the fiasco.<sup>1</sup>

Did Deloitte buy Abbott's silence on a lemon contract—or does his silence flow from their mutual incompetence on the software project first proposed in 2007? From 2006 through April 2015, Abbott collected more Deloitte campaign cash than any other politician (flaws in an Ethics Commission software overhaul prevent a systematic analysis of more recent contributions!).

During that period Abbott collected more than \$63,000 from Deloitte's PAC and employees (the PAC gave Abbott \$2,500 more this summer).<sup>2</sup> As Attorney General Abbott ran for governor in 2014, Deloitte's PAC and four employees adroitly bundled up a total of \$26,000 and delivered it to their silent sugar daddy all on the same day. If only Texas Attorney General software could coordinate child-support payments that smoothly.

### **Top Recipients of Deloitte PAC and Employee Funds (Jan. 2006 to April 2015)**

Amount	Recipient
\$80,000	TX Society of CPAs
\$63,760	<b>Greg Abbott</b>
\$60,395	Susan Combs
\$56,200	Rick Perry
\$30,000	David Dewhurst
\$16,500	Joe Straus
\$15,000	Tom Craddick
\$10,500	Glenn Hegar
\$9,200	Real Estate Council
\$8,000	Dawanna Dukes
\$8,000	Jane Nelson
\$8,000	Dan Patrick
\$7,000	John Otto
\$7,000	Kirk Watson
\$6,500	John Carona
\$6,500	Ken Paxton
\$6,000	Tommy Williams
\$5,500	Byron Cook
\$5,500	Dan Branch
\$5,500	Patrick Rose
\$5,500	Kel Seliger

## Itemized Deloitte Contributions to Abbott

Date	Amount	Contributor	Employer	City
3/31/2008	\$2,500	Deloitte & Touche TX PAC		Austin
12/9/2008	\$5,000	Deloitte & Touche TX PAC		Austin
10/9/2009	\$2,500	Deloitte & Touche TX PAC		Austin
9/9/2010	\$2,500	Deloitte TX PAC		Austin
6/30/2011	\$5,000	Deloitte TX PAC		Austin
10/10/2012	\$5,000	Deloitte TX PAC		Austin
6/27/2013	\$10,000	Deloitte TX PAC		Austin
6/19/2014	\$5,000	Deloitte Federal PAC		Washington
<b>8/28/2014</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>Deloitte PAC</b>		<b>Washington</b>
<b>8/28/2014</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b><a href="#">Kathleen</a> &amp; Robert Farlow</b>	<b>Deloitte</b>	<b>Houston</b>
<b>8/28/2014</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>Susan &amp; George Scott</b>	<b>Deloitte</b>	<b>Colleyville</b>
<b>8/28/2014</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>Erin &amp; <a href="#">Robert Thrash</a></b>		<b>Spicewood</b>
<b>8/28/2014</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>Karen &amp; Ray Warner</b>	<b>Deloitte</b>	<b>Dallas</b>
9/2/2014	\$50	<a href="#">W. Glenn Kelly</a>		Houston
9/8/2014	\$160	George Scott	Deloitte	Colleyville
10/8/2014	\$50	W. Glenn Kelly		Houston
6/29/2015	\$2,500	Deloitte PAC		Washington
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$66,260</b>			

**CORRECTION:** An earlier version of this piece listed an incorrect total for Abbott's same-day Deloitte contributions. As any CPA can tell you, that adds up to \$26,000. TPJ regrets the error.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> This year Gov. Abbott appointed his ex-child support deputy, [Charles Smith](#), who directly oversaw the disastrous contract, as deputy executive commissioner of the contracting-challenged Health and Human Services Commission.

<sup>2</sup> Contributions include employees of Deloitte and its subsidiaries, including Deloitte & Touche LLP, Deloitte Consulting LLP, Deloitte Financial Advisory Services and Deloitte Tax LLP.