

LOBBY WATCH



TEXANS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 609 W. 18TH ST., SUITE E, AUSTIN, TX 78701 PH: (512)472-9770 FAX: (512)472-9830

Laying Waste To Texas:

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Simmons' Money Predicted Nuclear-Waste Import Votes

"Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised [his] birthright." –Genesis 25:34

Dallas billionaire Harold Simmons is one savvy investor. For their most recent campaigns, 92 members of the 150-member Texas House (61 percent) collected a total of \$182,350 from Simmons, who has a state-granted monopoly on dumping low-level nuclear waste in Texas. Yesterday, 77 of the members taking Simmons' money (83 percent) voted to let him dump nuclear waste from other states in Andrews County.

Just 11 members who took Simmons money voted against his bill (12 percent) and they included only one of the 17 members who collected \$2,500 or more from Simmons. Several members changed their vote today on third reading (see table listing both votes).

Texas politicians say that the campaign funds that they so eagerly solicit have no influence on their

votes. If this is true, Simmons showed an uncanny ability to invest in politicians who later did his will. Give the devil his due—as Texas politicians surely do.

Simmons' worst investment was Rep. Pete Gallego of Alpine, who opposed the Simmons bill after collecting \$15,000 from the nuclear-waste kingpin.

Simmons-Funded Members Overwhelmingly Backed His Nuke-Dump Bill

Nuke-Dump Vote	No. of Members (%)	Simmons Total (%)
Yea	77 (84%)	\$138,350 (76%)
Nay	11 (12%)	\$24,500 (13%)
Not Voting	4 (4%)	\$19,500 (11%)
TOTALS:	92 (100%)	\$182,350 (100%)

Most House Members Who Took Simmons' Money Voted To Grant Him A Monopoly To Import Nuclear Waste

Simmons Bill Vote In House	No. of Members	Percent of Members	Total Amount From Simmons	Average Amount From Simmons
Yea	108	72%	\$138,350	\$1,281
Nay	36	24%	\$24,500	\$681
Not Voting	6	4%	\$19,500	\$3,250
TOTALS	150	100%	\$182,350	\$1,216

Bankroll Call: Correlating Simmons Contributions To Texas House Votes

House Member	Dist.	Party	Simmons Amount In 2010 Cycle	2 nd Reading Vote 5/17	3 rd Reading Vote 5/18
Aliseda, Jose	35	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Allen, Alma	131	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Alonzo, Robert	104	D	\$0	Nay	Absent
Alvarado, Carol	145	D	\$0	Nay	Absent
Anchia, Rafael	103	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Anderson, Charles	56	R	\$2,000	Absent	Absent
Anderson, Rodney	106	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Aycock, Jimmie	54	R	\$500	Yea	Absent
*Beck, Marva	57	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Berman, Leo	6	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Bohac, Dwayne	138	R	\$3,000	Yea	Absent
Bonnen, Dennis	25	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
Branch, Dan	108	R	\$12,000	Yea	Absent
Brown, Fred	14	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
Burkett, Cindy	101	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
Burnam, Lon	90	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Button, Angie Chen	112	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
Cain, Erwin	3	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Callegari, Bill	132	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Carter, Stefani	102	R	\$2,000	Nay	Nay
Castro, Joaquin	125	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Chisum, Warren	88	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Christian, Wayne	9	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Coleman, Garnet	147	D	\$15,000	Yea	Nay
Cook, Byron	8	R	\$6,000	Yea	Yea
Craddick, Tom	82	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
*Creighton, Brandon	16	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Crownover, Myra	64	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Darby, Drew	72	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
Davis, John	129	R	\$2,500	Yea	Yea
Davis, Sarah	134	R	\$500	Yea	Nay
Davis, Yvonne	111	D	\$0	Nay	Yea
Deshotel, Joe	22	D	\$0	Yea	Yea
Driver, Joe	113	R	\$3,000	Yea	Yea
Dukes, Dawnna	46	D	\$1,000	Nay	Nay
Dutton, Harold	142	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Eiland, Craig	23	D	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Eissler, Rob	15	R	\$1,000	Yea	Absent
Elkins, Gary	135	R	\$1,500	Yea	Yea
Farias, Joe	118	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Farrar, Jessica	148	D	\$500	Absent	Nay
Fletcher, Allen	130	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
Flynn, Dan	2	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
Frullo, John	84	R	\$0	Yea	Yea

Gallego, Pete	74	D	\$15,000	Nay	Nay
Garza, John	117	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Geren, Charlie	99	R	\$0	Yea	Absent
Giddings, Helen	109	D	\$1,000	Nay	Nay
Gonzales, Larry	52	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Gonzales, Veronica	41	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Gonzalez, Naomi R.	76	D	\$0	Not Voting	Nay
Gooden, Lance	4	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Guillen, Ryan	31	D	\$0	Yea	Yea
Gutierrez, Rolando	119	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Hamilton, Mike	19	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Hancock, Kelly	91	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Hardcastle, Rick	68	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Harless, Patricia	126	R	\$1,000	Yea	Absent
Harper-Brown, Linda	105	R	\$5,500	Yea	Yea
Hartnett, Will	114	R	\$1,000	Yea	Absent
Hernandez, Ana	143	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Hilderban, Harvey	53	R	\$2,000	Yea	Absent
Hochberg, Scott	137	D	\$0	Yea	Nay
*Hopson, Chuck	11	R	\$2,500	Yea	Yea
Howard, Charlie	26	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Howard, Donna	48	D	\$500	Nay	Nay
Huberty, Dan	127	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Hughes, Bryan	5	R	\$2,500	Yea	Yea
Hunter, Todd	32	R	\$2,000	Absent	Absent
Isaac, Jason A.	45	R	\$1,000	Nay	Nay
Jackson, Jim	115	R	\$2,500	Yea	Yea
Johnson, Eric	100	D	\$0	Yea	Yea
*Keffer, James	60	R	\$2,000	Yea	Absent
King, Phillip	61	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
King, Susan	71	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
*King, Tracy	80	D	\$2,500	Yea	Yea
Kleinschmidt, Tim	17	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Kolkhorst, Lois	13	R	\$1,000	Nay	Nay
Kuempel, John	44	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Landtroop, Jim	85	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
*Larson, Lyle	122	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Laubenberg, Jodie	89	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Lavender, George	1	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Legler, Ken	144	R	\$2,500	Yea	Yea
Lewis, Tryon	81	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Lozano, Jose Manuel	43	D	\$0	Yea	Yea
*Lucio III, Eddie	38	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Lyne, Lanham	69	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Madden, Jerry	67	R	\$2,000	Yea	Absent
Mallory Caraway, Barbara	110	D	\$0	Yea	Nay
Margo, Donald "Dee"	78	R	\$0	Yea	Yea

Marquez, Marisa	77	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
*Martinez Fischer, Trey	116	D	\$1,000	Nay	Nay
Martinez, Armando	39	D	\$0	Yea	Yea
McClendon, Ruth	120	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Menendez, Jose	124	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Miles, Borris L.	146	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
*Miller, Doug	73	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Miller, Sid	59	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
Morrison, Geanie	30	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Munoz, Jr., Sergio	36	D	\$0	Yea	Yea
Murphy, Jim	133	R	\$2,100	Yea	Yea
Naishtat, Elliot	49	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Nash, Barbara	93	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Oliveira, Rene	37	D	\$1,500	Yea	Yea
Orr, Rob	58	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Otto, John	18	R	\$1,500	Yea	Yea
Parker, Nathaniel 'Tan'	63	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Patrick, Diane	94	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Paxton, Ken	70	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Pena, Aaron	40	R	\$0	Yea	Absent
Perry, Charles	83	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Phillips, Larry	62	R	\$1,000	Yea	Absent
Pickett, Joe	79	D	\$0	Yea	Absent
Pitts, Jim	10	R	\$4,000	Yea	Yea
*Price, Walter T. 'Four'	87	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Quintanilla, Inocente "Chente"	75	D	\$500	Yea	Yea
Raymond, Richard	42	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Reynolds, Ron	27	D	\$500	Nay	Nay
Riddle, Debbie	150	R	\$0	Yea	Nay
*Ritter, Allan	21	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Rodriguez, Eddie	51	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Schwertner, Charles	20	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Scott, Connie	34	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Sheets, Kenneth	107	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Sheffield, Ralph	55	R	\$250	Yea	Yea
Shelton, Mark	97	R	\$2,000	Yea	Yea
Simpson, David	7	R	\$0	Nay	Nay
Smith, Todd	92	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Smith, Wayne	128	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Smithee, John	86	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Solomons, Burt	65	R	\$0	Yea	Absent
Strama, Mark	50	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Straus, Joe	121	R	\$15,000	Not Voting	Not Voting
Taylor, Larry	24	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Taylor, Nicholas "Van"	66	R	\$500	Yea	Yea
Thompson, Senfronia	141	D	\$500	Nay	Yea
Torres, Raul	33	R	\$0	Absent	Yea

Truitt, Vicki	98	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Turner, Sylvester	139	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Veasey, Marc	95	D	\$0	Yea	Absent
Villarreal, Mike	123	D	\$1,000	Nay	Absent
Vo, Hubert	149	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Walle, Armando	140	D	\$0	Nay	Nay
Weber, Randy	29	R	\$2,500	Yea	Yea
White, James	12	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Woolley, Beverly	136	R	\$0	Yea	Yea
Workman, Paul	47	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Zedler, William "Bill"	96	R	\$1,000	Yea	Yea
Zerwas, John	28	R	\$2,500	Yea	Yea

*Member of House Natural Resources Committee that first approved bill.

This latest Simmons vote broke to a significant degree on partisan lines. Although he is a political pragmatist, Simmons clearly leans toward the GOP in political tithing. During the 2010 election cycle, major candidates and partisan PACs reported receiving more than \$1.3 million from Simmons. Republicans got 94 percent of that money; Democrats got 6 percent.

Current House members got \$182,350 from Simmons in the last election. He gave 77 percent of that money to 78 of the House's 101 Republicans. Simmons gave the remaining 23 percent of that money to 14 of the House's 49 Democrats.

When it came time to face the music on the Simmons bill, 92 percent of House Republicans voted with their benefactor, compared to 31 percent of House Democrats. •

Harold Simmons' Biggest House Investments

Amount	Representative	Dist.	2nd Vote	3 rd Vote
\$15,000	Coleman, Garnet (D)	147	Yea	Nay
\$15,000	Gallego, Pete (D)	74	Nay	Nay
\$15,000	Straus, Joe (R)	121	NA	NA
\$12,000	Branch, Dan (R)	108	Yea	Absent
\$6,000	Cook, Byron (R)	8	Yea	Yea
\$5,500	Harper-Brown, L. (R)	105	Yea	Yea
\$4,000	Pitts, Jim (R)	10	Yea	Yea
\$3,000	Bohac, Dwayne (R)	138	Yea	Absent
\$3,000	Driver, Joe (R)	113	Yea	Yea
\$2,500	Davis, John (R)	129	Yea	Yea
\$2,500	Hopson, Chuck (R)	11	Yea	Yea
\$2,500	Hughes, Bryan (R)	5	Yea	Yea
\$2,500	Jackson, Jim (R)	115	Yea	Yea
\$2,500	King, Tracy (D)	80	Yea	Yea
\$2,500	Legler, Ken (R)	144	Yea	Yea
\$2,500	Weber, Randy (R)	29	Yea	Yea
\$2,500	Zerwas, John (R)	28	Yea	Yea

The Party Split Over Simmons' Out-of-State Nuclear Waste Bill

Party	Member Count (%)	No. of 'Yea' Votes (%)	Total Simmons Amount (%)	Average Simmons Amount	Simmons Contribution Recipients (%)
R	101 (67%)	93 (92%)	\$140,850 (77%)	\$1,395	78 (77%)
D	49 (33%)	15 (31%)	\$41,500 (23%)	\$847	14 (29%)
TOTALS:	150	108 (72%)	\$182,350 (100%)	\$1,216	92 (61%)