

News from TPJ

Texans for Public Justice ** 609 W. 18th Street, Suite E, ** Austin, TX 78701 ** 512-472-9770

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Wendy Davis Phenomenon Turns Texas Fundraising Traditions on Their Head

Senator Plays Small Ball in State Dominated by Big-Dollar Contributors

Capitalizing on national publicity surrounding her abortion-bill filibuster, Senator Wendy Davis has done what few, if any, Texas politicians have accomplished: raised real money from the little people.

Since May 27 Davis raised \$1.3 million, collecting almost half of it in grassroots contributions of \$100 or less. This may be unprecedented in Texas, where deep-pocketed kingmakers bankroll candidates facing no contribution limits. Checks worth \$10,000 or more accounted for just 18 percent of Davis' recent haul.

The table below compares Davis' recent fundraising to the money that Texas' nine statewide officials raised in the 2012 election cycle. None of them obtained more than 2 percent of their money in contributions of \$100 or less.

Comparing Wendy Davis' Recent Small-Donor Fundraising To Texas Statewide Officials in the 2012 Cycle

Politician	Office	Total Raised	Total from Checks ≤ \$100	% from Checks ≤ \$100	Total from Checks ≥ \$10,000	% from Checks ≥ \$10,000
W. Davis	SEN	\$1,347,059	\$663,391	49%	\$250,000	18%
G. Abbott	AG	\$10,858,896	\$140,633	1%	\$7,766,736	72%
S. Combs	COM	\$3,823,338	\$45,601	1%	\$2,202,449	58%
C. Craddick	RRC	\$2,842,552	\$14,947	1%	\$1,416,720	50%
D. Dewhurst	LG	\$3,591,615	\$3,027	<1%	\$2,951,500	82%
J. Patterson	LC	\$1,260,686	\$21,740	2%	\$535,000	42%
R. Perry	G	\$6,892,850	\$119,917	2%	\$5,134,577	74%
D. Porter	RRC	\$429,859	\$1,875	<1%	\$85,000	20%
B. Smitherman	RRC	\$4,073,041	\$11,457	<1%	\$2,157,195	53%
T. Staples	AGC	\$1,836,656	\$37,734	2%	\$802,000	44%

Senator Davis' totals cover May 27, 2013 through July 30, 2013. Totals for all others cover January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012. Note: Smitherman totals exclude a \$1,059,591 transfer from his candidate account to Friends of Barry Smitherman.