



# Perry Reaps \$17 Million from his Political Appointees

Governor Rick Perry has received \$17 million in campaign contributions from his political appointees and their spouses, according to a new report by Texans for Public Justice. One out of every \$5 raised by Governor Perry since 2001 has come from appointees or their spouses.

Key findings of the report include:

- Texas Governor Rick Perry tapped 3,995 appointees 5,662 times to serve on hundreds of state agencies, boards and commissions between January 2001 and February 23, 2010 (some appointees were appointed multiple times).
- From 2001 through June 2010 Perry's campaign received \$17,115,865 from 921 of these appointees or their spouses. Gubernatorial appointees accounted for an impressive 21 percent of the \$83.2 million that Perry's campaign has raised since 2001.
- Perry's most-lucrative appointee is Wendy Lee Gramm, whom he appointed to the A&M Board of Regents and the Texas Tax Reform Commission. The U.S. Senate campaign of Gramm's husband transferred \$610,000 to Perry's campaign in 2002. It was the largest same-day contribution of the governor's political career.
- Only two other appointees gave Perry more than \$450,000 apiece: Peter Holt and T. Dan Friedkin. Perry appointed both of them to the Parks and Wildlife Commission. Parks and Wildlife is Perry's favorite appointee fishing hole. He bagged more than \$2 million from this commission (\$118,477 per appointee).
- A&M Regents were Perry's No. 2 source of appointee cash, yielding \$113,127 per appointee. Four A&M appointees besides Wendy Gramm gave the governor more than \$200,000 apiece.
- Inaugural Committee appointees gave the governor an average of \$102,194 apiece, making this Perry's No. 3 source of appointee contributions.
- University of Texas regents ranked fourth, giving Perry an average of \$83,463 each.