

Tracking the Dirty Dollars

Sierra Club California launched the [Tracking the Dirty Dollars Project](#) in November 2020 to shed light on oil and gas contributions to legislators and other state-level elected officials. The project sorts through existing public databases to identify who receives contributions from oil and gas companies and their allies through direct campaign contributions, independent expenditure campaigns, and gifts. The project then presents the information in a clear format that makes it much easier for the general public and environmental activists to see what their elected leaders have received.



As of the May update, only 15 legislators have not received campaign contributions from polluters and their allies since January 1, 2021. In the primary elections, polluting industries spent more than \$1.8 million in contributions to candidates' campaigns.

The number of legislators that report more than \$10,000 in dirty donations has grown from 17 in our last edition to a whopping 58 in this edition. Thirty-one legislators have received more than \$20,000, ten have received more than \$30,000, and three have received more than \$40,000 in contributions from oil and gas interests.

“It’s more important than ever that transparent resources like the Dirty Dollars project exist to help inform voting decisions,” said Brandon Dawson, director of Sierra Club California. “Voters should take into account the contributions that candidates accept from polluting interests.”

So far, the California Republican Party Political Action Committee has accepted \$1,245,175 in donations from polluting industries. Unfortunately, many Democrats in the Assembly reported high dirty donation totals. Among the Assembly Democrats, Asm. Tom Daly leads with \$44,100 dirty dollars. Asm. Jim Cooper, a Democratic favorite of the oil and gas industry, reported \$36,350 in contributions from polluters and their friends. Other unsurprising names on the high-roller list include Asm. Tim Grayson (\$32,900), Asm. Freddie Rodriguez (\$31,000), Asm. Blanca Rubio (\$31,000), Asm. Sharon Quirk Silva (\$29,695), Asm. James Ramos (\$28,000), Asm. Adam Gray (\$27,200), Asm. Jose Medina (\$26,700), Asm. Carlos Villapudua (\$24,400), and Asm. Rudy Salas Jr. (\$23,300). The California Democratic Party PAC accepted \$60,000 in dirty dollars.

You can read the [full overview here](#) and [the report spreadsheets here](#).