

# I INTRODUCTION

This report analyzes the \$195 million raised in the 2002 election cycle by all 433 major-party candidates for every statewide\* and legislative office in Texas. Contributions to the two major political party committees--most of which are spent in support of the candidates--are analyzed separately at the end of this report to avoid double-counting the same dollars as they move through the political system.

The contribution data presented here come from "Contribution & Expenditure" reports that all candidates and political action committees (PACs) must file with the Texas Ethics Commission. While most of these reports were filed in an electronic format, researchers entered some reports that were just filed on paper into an electronic database to facilitate computer analysis of the data (see "Luddite Fundraisers"). This report--which analyzes more than 145,000 contribution records--does not include contributions of less than \$100.

TPJ enhanced Texas Ethics Commission data by standardizing contributor names and attempting to identify the primary economic interest of every major individual and institutional (PAC or business) donor. Researchers identified the economic interest of 76 percent of the money analyzed in this report.

Dominated by failed gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez and successful lieutenant governor candidate David Dewhurst, a minority of Texas candidates self-financed some portion of their campaigns. When listing how much money each candidate raised, this report generally includes these self-financed contributions. When analyzing contribution sources, however, self-financing is left out to avoid skewed results. Since it is no secret that Sanchez and Dewhurst made their fortunes in the energy industry, for example, this report focuses on analyzing the sources of the money that they raised from other donors.

Because this report just analyzes political funds disclosed to the Texas Ethics Commission, it excludes the highly controversial \$1.9 million that the Texas Association of Business spent in 2002 to benefit 23 Republican legislative candidates. At press time, the Travis County District Attorney was investigating the legality of these stealth political expenditures.

\* Texas candidates run for nine statewide offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Land Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals.